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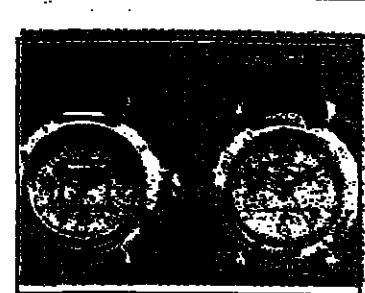
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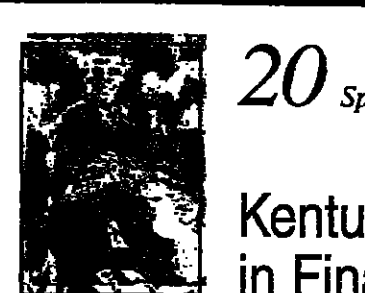
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Increased alert for Hamas attacks

By EITAN RABIN

The security services have gone on increased alert recently in response to warnings of impending attacks by Hamas and the Islamic Jihad in the country's cities and against settlers in the territories.

These warnings have not come with regard to specific targets, but as a general and growing alert in anticipation of terrorist strikes, a security source said.

At a recent strategy session, security sources evaluated a series of events over the past 10 days that have contributed to the new state of heightened alert. These included the incident at the Tarkumiya road-block, where three Palestinians were mistakenly shot dead by soldiers, growing unrest on the Palestinian street, the violent eviction of Palestinian squatter families by the IDF from Israeli-controlled territory, and the deadlock in the peace process.

Security sources said the situation in the territories today is worse than ever. There is growing distrust between Israelis and Palestinians and still no full cooperation between the two sides' intelligence services.

Hamas, which suffered several setbacks at the hands of the General Security Service over the past year, is now making its recovery complete by taking over the Palestinian street once again, the source said. A worrisome indication of this development is that Hamas has recruited many female university chemistry students into its ranks over the past few months.

"A terror attack [launched] from the Palestinian Authority now against Israel would cause the complete collapse of the [peace] process with the Palestinians," the source said.

There still are terror cells still operating in the West Bank, whose members have avoided capture by hiding out in PA-controlled areas.

'Titanic' tops box office for 14th week

LOS ANGELES (AP) — *Titanic*, the movie that can't stop breaking records, was tops at the box office for an unprecedented 14th week-end in a row.

The previous best runs atop the weekly box office standings were 13 weeks each by *Tootsie* in 1982 and *Beverly Hills Cop* in 1984.

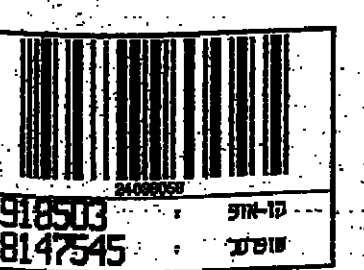
"We've never seen anything like *Titanic*," said John Krier, an analyst for Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. "We can't get over it. We keep

The Postman doesn't ring at all, Page 9

waiting for it to drop, but it doesn't. No one can quite explain the power it has over the public."

The disaster epic had a chance to break another record overnight by surpassing *Ben Hur* as the biggest Oscar winner ever. James Cameron's \$200 million movie is nominated for 14 Academy Awards. *Ben Hur* won 11 in 1959.

Titanic was estimated to have taken in \$17.3m. in North American ticket sales this week-end, trouncing the debut of the John Travolta political comedy *Primary Colors*, which made \$12.4m., according to Exhibitor Relations.



A Palestinian woman holds a portrait of a relative under Israeli detention during a demonstration outside UN headquarters in Gaza yesterday prior to the arrival of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Mordechai to press Annan on 425

By JAY BUSHNISKY, ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN, and agencies

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan is expected to get an earful on what Israel considers the UN's role in helping it pull the IDF out of Lebanon from Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai during their meeting today.

Mordechai intends to ask Annan to use his momentum, garnered after he helped resolve the Iraqi crisis, to dissolve the belligerence along Israel's last active front. He is expected to ask Annan to convince Syrian President Hafez Assad to back his proposal for withdrawing from Lebanon.

Annan, who starts his official visit today, after meeting with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in the Gaza Strip, is expected to fill in Israeli leaders on Syria's sentiments regarding UN Security Council Resolution 425.

His talks in Beirut and Damascus are of particular interest to the government, especially in view of its offer to withdraw the IDF from the Security Zone of

southern Lebanon on the basis of Resolution 425. Such a plan would be contingent on guarantees that the Lebanese Army will deploy in the south and prevent Hizbullah from attacking Israeli

Annan tells Arafat: PII urge Israel to honor resolutions, Page 2
Gov't opposes amending Golan Heights Law, Page 3

targets and the South Lebanese Army.

Although Annan heard negative reactions to the initiative in Damascus, Israeli officials believe it will remain on the international agenda and will entail discreet and prolonged diplomatic contacts, possibly under Annan's auspices.

This subject is expected to dominate the working meeting at Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office today and may

be discussed further over dinner tonight.

Defense officials said they view positively Annan's position that UNIFIL has the mandate to implement an Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon.

Reports from Lebanon quote Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah as saying Hizbullah is keeping its cards close to its chest and refusing to reveal whether it would cease its attacks on Israelis should the IDF quit Lebanon.

Nasrallah called this ambiguity his "trump card," and added that UN Resolution 425 did not obligate Lebanon to make security arrangements along the border with Israel.

During Annan's 42-hour visit to Israel he will also discuss the plight of Israeli soldiers missing in action.

Annan, who is being accompanied by his wife, Nane, will place a wreath at Yad Vashem's Hall of Remembrance, stop at the memorial to the children who perished in the Holocaust and plant a tree in honor of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who rescued

Ross says US determined to break deadlock

PM: I'm not seeking conflict with Washington

By LIAT COLLINS

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday that he is not seeking any conflict with the US, and that he has received no concrete proposal from Washington about the next stage of a redeployment.

He reiterated that only Israel can determine its security needs.

"I have no objections to the US raising its ideas, making a suggestion here and there. This is something we've done in the past and we're going to have such an exchange of ideas with [US special envoy Dennis] Ross when he comes here [on Thursday], he told reporters as he left the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Ross speaking in Washington yesterday said the US is determined to break the deadlock in the peace process. He is to arrive here Thursday to "finalize" American ideas for rekindling the peace process, the State Department said yesterday, calling the visit "critical."

Netanyahu told reporters: "We stand on two things: one is that the Palestinians scrupulously fulfill the obligations they gave us to

fight terrorism, to truly fight terrorism, and they haven't done that; and the second is that Israel and Israel alone will be the one that determines its security needs and from that, the extent of the withdrawal."

He added that this is what the US promised at the time of the signing of the Hebron agreement. The reason Israel must be the one

IDF generals, PA security officials applaud meeting, Page 2

to determine its security needs, he said, is "because it has to live with the consequences. Israel is a tiny country. And every piece of territory here is tied to security."

"Every percent is the size of Tel Aviv and this territory which abuts our major cities determines whether we can effectively guarantee that additional territory is not turned into a Hamas base, a terrorist base."

"We have made those determinations in a very careful calculation,

not by choosing the numbers, but by looking at the maps very, very carefully and deciding what territories are important, vital for our security, and what are territories that are less important."

Netanyahu said that increasing the area handed over could endanger those using Ben-Gurion Airport, travelers on the roads, and water sources.

"The view from the Potomac is not the same as the view from the Jordan," he said.

On Channel 1's *Popolitica* last night, MK Dalia Itzik (Labor) displayed a document which she claimed proved that Netanyahu had committed to a 10-15% redeployment in his talks with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Paris.

A senior American source denied that Netanyahu made any commitment regarding the size of the withdrawal. A senior source in Jerusalem believes Itzik's document is a summary of a discussion between an American Jewish leader and a middle-level US National Security Council official.

See CONFLICT, Page 2

Yeltsin dumps entire cabinet

By MAURA REYNOLDS

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin fired his entire cabinet yesterday, declaring a new team is vital to ensure that economic reform works in Russia and democrats win the next presidential election.

Yeltsin told outgoing Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, a long-time Yeltsin loyalist, to begin preparing for presidential elections in 2000, but stopped well short of naming him as his candidate and it may only have been a face-saving gesture.

Yeltsin, looking calm and speaking strongly and clearly, said on national TV that Russia needed a new government to

Russian foreign policy unchanged, Page 7

ensure the success of market reforms started by his administration. He criticized the old cabinet for wasting time on political infighting.

"Resignation of the government does not mean the change in the course of our politics. This is an effort to bring more energy and efficiency to economic reforms," he said.

The resignations were hailed by the Communist-led opposition, who called them long overdue.

"Communists have never trusted this course or this government or believed that it could manage the tasks it faced," said Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov, traveling in southern Ukraine.

Yeltsin named as acting prime minister Sergei Kirilenko, 35, the outgoing minister of fuel and energy, who said the news of his new job came as a "complete surprise."

"My job is to take care of the government's current business," Kirilenko said, adding that "it is up to the president" whether he

becomes the next premier. Yeltsin, who has the constitutional power to appoint and dismiss ministers, indicated he had selected a new prime minister, but did not name him.

Most ministers were ordered to continue on a temporary basis. Yeltsin's explanation left many questions unanswered, such as why he dismissed ministers who don't deal with economic issues.

While the cabinet had done well in some areas, Yeltsin said it had failed to solve key issues and persuade ordinary Russians that market reforms would improve their lives.

"Unfortunately people don't feel changes for the better. I believe that recently the government has been lacking dynamism and initiative, new outlooks, fresh approaches and ideas. And without this, a powerful breakthrough in the economy is impossible," Yeltsin said.

Many Russians, deeply unhappy about falling living standards and unpaid wages and pensions, blame reforms for the country's economic woes, saying their lives were better in the Soviet era.

Communists and other opposition groups have popular support and want to turn back market reforms.

The unexpected firings came after Yeltsin strongly criticized the government in weekend meetings for its chronic failure to pay back wages and pensions to millions of Russians.

Chernomyrdin had been a loyal premier who served more than five years as scores of other cabinet officials came and went.

He has been mentioned widely as a potential presidential candidate, but at a hastily-organized news conference yesterday he declined to say whether he would run.

"There is no governmental crisis in the country," Chernomyrdin said. "This is a natural and routine process of renewing power. One thing is clear: the course of reforms in Russia is irreversible."

Suissa urges Hecht not to visit

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Interior Minister Elihu Suissa said yesterday that Rabbi Abraham Hecht, who declared in 1995 that prime minister Yitzhak Rabin was deserving of death, is not welcome here, but that he would not revoke a permit issued to allow Hecht into the country.

About a month after Rabin's assassination, then interior minister Haim Ramon barred Hecht and six other radical right wing American Jewish activists from entering the country.

Earlier this week, Suissa revoked the ban, saying he decided it was no longer necessary.

During 1995, Hecht, a Brooklyn resident, made several pronouncements indicating that according to Halacha, Rabin deserved death.

The first statement came at a June 1995 meeting in New York of an Orthodox group called the

International Rabbinical Coalition for Israel, which issued a ruling saying it is forbidden for the government to relinquish any land.

Speaking at that conference, Hecht implied it was halachically permissible to kill Rabin and other Israeli officials who are "mosrim," people who betray Jews. He invoked Maimonides, who prescribes death, even without trial, for all "informers" against Jews or their property.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post* on June 27, 1995, Hecht said: "Did I say you should get a 'hired gun' and blow his [Rabin's] brains out? Absolutely not. But if we are talking academically, from the point of view of Jewish law, [Rabin] is a traitor."

In a September 1995 interview with *New York Magazine*, Hecht said that according to Halacha, a Jew who gives away land in Eretz Yisrael is punishable by death. He

also said that "whoever kills Rabin will be doing a good thing."

Hecht's comments shook up the mainstream Orthodox community in the US, which quickly distanced itself from him.

A few days before Rabin was assassinated, Hecht repeated this opinion in an interview with Channel 1's Ya'acov Ahimeir. Asked whether the conclusion is that Rabin should be harmed, Hecht replied laughing "yes, but I didn't get that privilege. Because he [Rabin] is still alive." Channel 1 never broadcast the interview.

Suissa's decision provoked an outcry. Labor Party leader Ehud Barak said that if Hecht comes, the opposition would demonstrate against him all around the country to make it clear that he is not wanted.

See HECHT, Page 2

NEWS

in brief

Ilyia's explosives caused most commando deaths

An IDF document published yesterday acknowledged that most of the casualties of a thwarted naval commando raid last September in Lebanon were caused by explosives carried by Third Petty Officer Ilyia, who was one of the 12 fatalities.

According to the document, 39 soldiers were killed in south Lebanon in 1997, up from 26 in 1996, and 93 soldiers were wounded in Lebanon last year as compared to 98 in 1996.

There were 299 attacks launched on the IDF in south Lebanon in 1997, and 128 in 1996, it says.

Forty-two civilians were killed in terror attacks last year and 200 were wounded, but no IDF soldiers were killed in the territories last year, it says.

Eitan Rabin

PM: There will be buildings on Har Homa

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reportedly told the National Religious Party faction yesterday: "I promise that by the end of my term in office there will be buildings on Har Homa," but he refused to give a date for the issue of the construction tenders.

When NRP MKs criticized him for footdragging on Har Homa, Netanyahu said he did not know why the matter had been unnecessarily held up. "It was not on my orders and was without my knowledge," he said.

MK Nissan Slomiansky threatened that the MKs would resume their policy of touring the site during Knesset votes, taking away the coalition's majority.

Liat Collins

Municipality denies report of bill to expand capital

Jerusalem Municipality Spokesman Hagai Elias flatly denied a Channel 2 report last night saying that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert were intending to submit a bill on Independence Day that would expand Jerusalem's borders to Latrun. The proposal would not incorporate any settlements in the territories.

However, it does include a clause that would "bolster ties" between Jerusalem and settlements of Ma'aleh Adumim and Givat Ze'ev, Channel 2 TV said.

Eli Wohlgelemer and news agencies

PM to US: Halt Russian know-how transfer to Iran

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday threatened to go over US President Bill Clinton's head and ask Congress to impose sanctions on Russia over the transfer of weapons know-how to Iran, a government official said. The official said Netanyahu told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Israel was prepared to wait another 30 days for US diplomacy to yield results before going to the Congress.

"Our main consideration is what can be done to remove the Iranian ballistic threat," Netanyahu was quoted as saying. "The window of opportunity to prevent the leakage of know-how is closing."

AP

Two people killed, 14 injured on roads

A 70-year-old man was run over by a truck and killed when he tried to cross the Ayalon Highway. The truck driver swerved and tried to avoid the man, but to no avail. In swerving, the truck hit a private car, but no one in the car was hurt.

Ya'acov Crispis, 23, of Acre, was killed on the Acre-Nahariya road when his motorcycle was hit by a car driving out of Kibbutz Lohamei Hagaiot.

An eight-year-old boy was seriously hurt when he was hit by a car in Majdal Krum in the western Galilee. Thirteen people were lightly hurt when two vehicles collided at the Sha'ar Hagai interchange on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway.

Itim

Amir brothers hold their first jail meeting

Yigal Amir, prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassin, held his first meeting in jail yesterday with his brother, Hagai Amir. The two met for two hours at the Ohalei Kedar jail in Beersheba. Hagai Amir was brought there under heavy guard from Shata Prison in the North.

Itim

IAF jets hit Lebanon

Hizbullah gunmen fired mortars at IDF and SLA positions in south Lebanon yesterday following a double air strike at suspected terrorist positions. There were no reported casualties in the attacks. The army said Hizbullah set off two roadside charges against SLA forces operating in the Jezzine District. There were no injuries or damage in that attack. IDF and SLA artillery returned fire.

Arieh O'Sullivan

Israeli-PA security officials discuss ways to prevent violence

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and MOHAMMED NAJIB

IDF generals and Palestinian security officials met last night to discuss recent violence in the Hebron area, and ways of preventing future clashes. Afterwards, officials on both sides applauded the session as satisfactory and positive, and said that the meetings would continue.

At the meeting were OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan, Head of the Civil Administration Brig.-Gen. David Shahaf, the IDF commander for the West Bank and Brig.-Gen. Itzhak Eitan, police commander for Judea and Samaria. The IDF Spokesman said that the initial findings of a probe of the Tarkumiya shootings were presented to the Palestinians, at their request.

Three Palestinians in a van were fatally shot by soldiers at a roadblock outside the town earlier this month.

Dayan stressed that the soldiers at the roadblock had acted according to regulations, fearing that the van's occupants could have staged an attack. He regretted the tragic

events and the loss of life.

The spokesman added that Dayan stressed to the Palestinians that he would not permit further rioting to endanger the lives of soldiers or Israeli civilians.

West Bank Palestinian security officials said that they were pleased with the meeting but charged that the initial findings about Tarkumiya were unsatisfactory. They took issue with the release of the three soldiers accused of the shootings.

Also discussed was ways of clamping down on car thefts. Among the Palestinian security officials at the meeting were West Bank Commander of the Palestinian Forces Brig.-Gen. Haj Ismail Jaber, Brig.-Gen. Abdul Razzik Yehiya and Brig.-Gen. Tawfik Tirawi, the head of Palestinian Intelligence in the West Bank.

Jaber said there was discussion of continued cooperation and the issue of arresting fugitives.

West Bank Preventive Security Chief Jibril Rajoub did not attend. He has boycotted meetings with Israelis since the IDF's arrest of two Tsurif Gang members outside Nablus several months ago.

Annan promises Arafat: I'll urge Israel to honor UN resolutions

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH, MOHAMMED NAJIB, and news agencies

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan promised Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday that he would do his best to persuade Israel to honor world body resolutions. He also urged the Palestinians to avoid terrorism.

Annan received a hero's welcome in Gaza, after landing by helicopter in nearby El Arish.

"I am sure your excellency will push forward the peace process as you succeeded in your mission in Iraq," Arafat told him at a news conference in Gaza City.

"Inshallah," Annan said. "We hope here in the Holy Land your presence will force Israel to honor UN agreements and not ignore them," Arafat said.

Responding Annan said, "I will do my best but we should be very careful not to exaggerate expectations of what the Secretary General can do despite the Iraqi crisis."

A friend in New York called me a magician without tricks. You understand what limited capabilities a magician without tricks has got," Annan quipped.

He added: "I think I have indicated that all Security Council resolutions are binding. I can't impose implementation of Security Council resolutions but I can urge and pressure the parties to implement them," he said.

During their meeting Arafat accused Israel of not implementing peace agreements. He also said he discussed with Annan the release of Palestinian prisoners.

Israel's failure to implement the signed accords, the redeployment in the West Bank, the airport, sea-port and safe passages.

Later, in a speech before the Palestinian legislative council, Annan urged the Palestinians not to resort to violence or the use of terror.

"Do not accept the claims of hatred or the cries of war," he said. "They will not prevail. They will only delay the peace that you seek."

"Only peace, only compromise, only the understanding that two peoples must live - and not die - side by side will bring peace to this land and self-determination for your people."

"Though you have come a long way toward realizing your dream, I know it remains a dream deferred," he said.

Annan was also welcomed at a Palestinian cabinet meeting, which seemed to focus on the US peace proposal.

General Secretary Ahmed Abdel Rahman said he welcomed any US initiative that would push the peace process forward, but that the proposal must include a three-phase withdrawal from the West Bank.

Some Palestinians were critical of Washington's plan.

"The Palestinians have major problems with American ideas because they adopt the Israeli views," PA Minister of Higher Education Hanan Ashrawi said.

Meanwhile, Palestinian officials said yesterday that Arafat would attend a meeting of Arab Foreign Ministers slated to start in Cairo today about the peace process. He was expected to protest Israeli measures that harm the Palestinian economy and the Jerusalem issue.



United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat talk as they exit from their meeting yesterday in Gaza City. (Reuters)

Mordechai: Now's the time for a Lebanon agreement

By LIAT COLLINS

The time is ripe to reach an agreement on Lebanon while Hizbullah is losing scores of its men and "before the next crisis," Defense Minister - Yitzhak Mordechai told the Likud faction meeting yesterday.

Mordechai said South Lebanese Army head Gen. Antoine Lahad supports an IDF withdrawal that is coordinated with the Lebanese government.

He stressed that the IDF is in south Lebanon not by choice but for pressing security reasons, but that he believes the Lebanese Army is now capable of maintaining order in the security zone if the IDF leaves.

It is a mistake to think that reaching an agreement with

Lebanon would put an end to a dialogue with Syria, he added.

Speaking to reporters after the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said it is "an absurd situation" that Israel wants to leave Lebanon but Syria wants it to stay.

"There are many strange things in the Middle East, and this is one of them," he said.

Netanyahu reportedly told the committee that reports that Israel has agreed to resume the talks with Syria from the point where they broke off are groundless, but Israel is willing to listen to all Syrian proposals.

Netanyahu said he had supported proposals for a public referendum and a 61-MK majority to

approve any territorial concessions on the Golan Heights.

He added there could be no withdrawal without a commitment by the Lebanese government to maintain law and order in the security zone and reportedly said Israel "will not forget its debt" to the south Lebanese.

Mordechai told the Likud, that the IDF and defense establishment oppose a unilateral withdrawal that could bring terror to the border and might later force the IDF to return there.

At a National Religious Party meeting, Netanyahu reportedly said: "I have low, not high, expectations of this [unilateral withdrawal] initiative. When the other side hears we are prepared to unilaterally withdraw I doubt it will want to talk with us."

For Annan, Yad Vashem visit will be more than a formality

By ELI WOHLGELEMER

One of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's stops tomorrow will be Yad Vashem, where most visiting diplomats and high government officials go to pay respects. But this visit will have more than formal significance for Annan, who is likely to pause by a tree planted along the Avenue of the Righteous Gentiles in memory of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish

diplomat who rescued tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews from the Nazis.

Nina Lagergren, the mother of Annan's wife, Nane, was Wallenberg's half-sister. "The last letter Raoul wrote was to congratulate my mother on my birth in October 1944," Nane said last year.

Her uncle was "someone who was absent but still very much present, because of the continuous

struggle to find him," she said.

Although he would be 85 now, "my family continues to hope that he is alive, despite reports to the contrary."

Her memories of him have always been "a mixture of the sadness and the tremendous importance of him and the difference a man can make. There are so many people whose lives he has touched in some way or another. He was very remarkable."

HECHT

Continued from Page 1

MK Ofir Pines (Labor) urged Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to file criminal charges against Hecht, if he visits.

In a radio interview, Suissa said he forgave Hecht, because he had repented, taken back his harsh statements against Rabin and paid dearly for them.

Asked if he would shake Hecht's hand Suissa said "there is no reason for me not to, if he repented, he is forgiven."

But after being reprimanded by his party leader, MK Aryeh Deri, and sharply criticized throughout the day, Suissa changed his tone and called on Hecht not to come to Israel at all.

"Hecht is a villain and not wanted here. I urge him not to make use of the removal of the entry ban," Suissa said. He added that if Hecht does come to Israel, he, Suissa, may demonstrate in protest.

Deri, who called Israel Radio to comment on Suissa's earlier statements concerning Hecht, said the interior minister had erred when he said Hecht could be forgiven because he had repented.

"The deed attributed to that Jew, Hecht, is very grave and has no forgiveness from man. When the utterance is made by a rabbi it is even more severe and it is not the interior minister's place to forgive him," Deri said.

He said the minister had no authority to forbid Hecht's entering the country once the security services removed their objections "but I wouldn't advise it. Hecht would be making a grave mistake if he comes, he would arouse an awful ferment and cause desecration of God and contempt of the Torah."

MK Amnon Rubinstein, of Meretz, warned Suissa he would petition the High Court of Justice against allowing "that vile man to enter Israel."

Marilyn Henry and Batseva Tsur contributed to this report.

CONFLICT

Continued from Page 1

Netanyahu reportedly told the committee that "the last thing Israel wants is for the Arab world to think that on such a fateful issue it will accept external dictates."

This is particularly important before talks are held on permanent status arrangements, he said, adding that the Palestinians are stalling the peace process in the belief this will create US pressure on Israel.

At a Likud faction meeting, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai sounded a similar theme, saying: "I very much hope the US won't try to impose its will on us and won't set out on its own initiative. We'll ask the US to be a bridge and mediator, not the initiator."

Government officials criticized the American plan yesterday for failing to include quid pro quo requirements for the Palestinian Authority to link its demand for

additional territory to fulfilling its obligation to eliminate terrorist elements in its midst.

Netanyahu's communications adviser, David Bar-Ilan, said the American formula does not compel the Palestinians to comply with Israel's minimal security needs.

The government's implicit rejection of the US plan at its weekly meeting Sunday was seen by Netanyahu's senior aides as a harbinger of tension or resentment in the longstanding relationship between Jerusalem and Washington. The main irritant in the American plan is believed to be its recommendation that the IDF evacuate 13 percent of the West Bank. This conflicts with the cabinet consensus that no more than 10% can be handed over to the PA under the interim agreement and that any additional pull-back must be negotiated only in the final-status talks.

Bar-Ilan said: "The main irritant in the American plan is believed to be its recommendation that the IDF evacuate 13 percent of the West Bank. This conflicts with the cabinet consensus that no more than 10% can be handed over to the PA under the interim agreement and that any additional pull-back must be negotiated only in the final-status talks."

Batsheva Tsur adds:

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak yesterday accused the government of "irresponsibility" for its attitude towards the US peace plan.

"We have not yet begun discussing the final-status agreement and it is irresponsible to lead us in the opening phase into a full-fledged fight with the US," Barak said. "No one can dictate to us what to do - not even such good friends as the Americans. But we have to remember that the US president is probably the best friend we have ever had in the White House. Dragging Israel into a fight with the US is harmful to our security."

Barak advised the government to sit down with US officials and reach an agreement, "even if it takes several hours of hammering out... Whoever says that 10% is a disaster shows that he knows nothing about security," he said. Jay Bushinsky and Avinoam Bar-Yosef contributed to this report.

I mourn the loss of my dear mother

RACHEL HENRIETTE KWETSER-KLEERKOPER

who passed away suddenly in Amsterdam on Wednesday, March 18, 1998 (20 Adar 5758).

Margalith Polak-Kwetsar
Michael Polak

Shiva in Jerusalem only on Wednesday, March 20, 520/8 Rehov Mordechai Alkachi, Jerusalem.

ANNAN

Continued from Page 1

Mordechai is slated to meet with his US counterpart William Cohen and Martin Indyk.

He also will meet with US peace envoy Dennis Ross before Ross leaves for Israel.

A meeting with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright may also

be held if she returns in time from Bosnia.

Accompanying Mordechai is Uri Lubrani, the government coordinator of activities in Lebanon, to explain Israel's position and interpretation of UN Resolution 425.

Lubrani joined Mordechai in his visit to France last month for the same purpose.

Mordechai also plans to lobby

for US support in persuading Assad to return to the negotiation table.

But defense sources said Israel is not committing itself to any preconditions.

Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi plans to visit Syria on Saturday to discuss regional developments, including Israel's Lebanon initiative, diplomats said yesterday.

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For the birds

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon poses with a kestrel about to be released back to nature, at a ceremony yesterday marking the opening of a bird observatory near the Knesset. In a project sponsored by the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, Tichon's 'Born to be Wild' program and the Tisch Biblical Zoo, nesting boxes and observation posts were set up in the Rose Garden area, so the public can see the migratory birds passing between Europe and Africa. Jerusalem is located at the heart of the bird migratory route and the Rose Garden, as one of the few open green areas in the city, attracts large numbers of birds.

(Text: Liat Collins; Photo: Isaac Harari)

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

US initiative

"As of [Sunday], Israel and the US have taken a course that seems to be heading towards a head-on collision," writes *Ma'ariv's* Chemi Shalev, relating to the government's rejection of the US proposal of a 13% redeployment in the West Bank.

He adds that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is aware of the fact that "his political minefield lies in the West Bank and not in southern Lebanon."

Dan Margalit in *Ha'aretz* declares that in addition to the rupture between Israel and the US and Europe, Israel's rejection will lead to terror attacks and economic difficulties.

"A loud argument with the US in addition to the gimmick of a political crisis can assist Netanyahu in convincing the opposition in his camp that he has done everything he could and the lesser of two evils must be accepted."

Yediot Aharonot's Shimon Schiffer states that Netanyahu's phone calls to US President Bill Clinton last weekend are an indication of Netanyahu's great efforts to try to thwart the initiative. Netanyahu believes that the Palestinians are refusing to negotiate with the Israelis because they are waiting for the American proposal.

"The American president believes that the threat of publication of the US initiative will accomplish its mission. Netanyahu's phone calls to Clinton and the reports from Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky from Washington, have taught the prime minister that this time, the Americans are serious," concludes *Ha'aretz's* Akiva Eldar.

Of criminals and victims

The plea bargain reached between the state attorney and Zvi Ben-Ari's [Gregory Lerner] attorneys, under which Ben-Ari pleads guilty to 13 charges and is sentenced to a six-year term, indicates that Ben-Ari "is not an innocent victim of persecution but a criminal," writes *Ma'ariv's* Yosef Lapid.

Relating to claims that Lerner was persecuted because of his success as a businessman and primarily because he was a Russian immigrant, Lapid adds, "There is no truth to the claim that all the fuss was for nothing."

"In a sane country with a little self-respect, MK Yuri Stern and a few others who tried to turn Lerner into a tormented saint would have asked the pardon of

the police," states *Yediot's* Mordechai Gilat.

He adds that any resentment in this case should be turned against the "professional inciters who tried, in the last year, to present Lerner as a persecuted victim, an insignificant criminal; those who tried to terrorize the remains of the power of the law in this state."

Ha'aretz's editorial ponders the reaction of politicians from the Yisrael Ba'aliya Party who attacked the police and the state attorney's office for pursuing a plea bargain, and their conclusion that Lerner was a victim.

One of the roles of the Russian immigrant leadership is to publicly identify with the values of good civil behavior, the editorial continues. "It violates this duty when it presents Lerner's criminal behavior in a distorted way... nothing justifies turning his conviction into a tool to undermine the investigative and legal procedures."

Attorney Avraham Fechter in *Ma'ariv*, on the other hand, believes that the plea bargain is an indication that the State Attorney's Office is incompetent and unable to gather enough evidence against Lerner.

"The police, the state attorney's office and the legal system have blown a bubble and are forced to sign a plea bargain and settle for a six-year imprisonment - a punishment meted out to car thieves."

Forbidden meat

The Meat Law, banning the import of non-kosher meat, which passed its final reading last week "is meant to gradually undermine and terminate the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation and empty it of its essence," declares Molly Peleg in *Ma'ariv*.

She adds that the law is simply a political tool for political purposes.

"The fear of getting into conflict with those who lust for kosher meat in a future government, chased away the knights holding the banner of freedom of conscience and liberty of the individual to the Knesset restaurant."

Yisrael Aharoni in *Yediot* says that the consumer will have to pay the price for economic and religious interests supported by the MKs who voted for the law - the same MKs "who are seen eating with great pleasure in non-kosher restaurants."

He suggests that they "should come out of the closet... so that the public will know that not everything that seems kosher is kosher."

Pollard to Neeman: Israel has failed me

By HILLEL KUTTLER

BUTNER, North Carolina - Convicted spy Jonathan Pollard accused the cabinet yesterday of failing to act or convene on his behalf, despite a recent promise made to this effect to the High Court of Justice.

He also urged the government to unleash "heavy artillery," by mobilizing AIPAC on his behalf, which, he said, would lead other American Jewish organizations to follow suit.

Pollard spoke in a 40-minute meeting at the Federal Correctional Institution with Finance Minister Yisrael Neeman, Pollard's wife Esther, and journalists from *The Jerusalem Post* and *Israel Radio*.

Pollard said he was "extremely disappointed" and "quite angry" about the court's 60-day delay of a ruling about whether he is an Israeli agent. He was "extremely relieved" by the formation three weeks ago of a ministerial steering com-

mittee on the Pollard case. The efforts are being coordinated by cabinet secretary Dan Naveh.

Pollard, 42, said he was "a bit confused, to say the least, over the rather tardy and rather unfocused activity of the committee," and alleged that the forum hadn't met since an initial session.

Yesterday's meeting was Pollard's first with a cabinet minister since the committee was formed.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat saw him in December, and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein saw him in November. Naveh and Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai are also expected to visit Pollard.

Pollard said that if the government recognized him as an agent, it would have more authority to seek his release, and that by failing to do so, the US government was made "extremely angry" for "being played for a fool."

No-confidence bid fails

Jerusalem Day holiday

A vote of no-confidence in the prime minister failed last night by 40 to 47 with two abstentions by the Moleket MKs. One vote was held on three motions introduced by Hadash, Meretz and Labor.

The motions were filed over the government's economic and diplomatic policies. Sixty-one votes would have been required to topple the government.

In replying to the motions, Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom said Israel welcomed all US or constructive proposals by other well-wishers which could help further the peace process. But he stressed, like the prime minister said earlier in the day, that only Israel can determine its security needs.

"The Americans also realize that if the essence of a proposal harms Israel's security, we cannot agree to it," Shalom said. "But the Labor Party doesn't realize this and is inviting US pressure on Israel."

In response to other motions concerning government land policy with respect to the Arab population, Shalom denounced the discussion as an attempt to move "Land Day" into the Knesset.

He said there is no policy to force Arabs off their land, and said that some 3,500 housing units are planned for the Arab sector this year and next.

Meretz MK Walid Zadek said: "The government is pushing us towards extremism and separatism which we don't want."

MK Azmi Bishara (Hadash) called for the Jewish Agency and Jewish National Fund to be disbanded saying they are anachronistic bodies whose policies are based on racism and discrimination.

AT THE KNESSET

By LIAT COLLINS

opposed the measure at first reading, were absent yesterday. Apart from being a possible vacation day, the law calls for special educational activities on Jerusalem Day.

Jerusalem Mayor and Likud MK Ehud Olmert made a relatively rare appearance in the plenum to praise the legislation.

MK Ezra criticized

Hadash MKs yesterday condemned the behavior of the Likud's Gideon Ezra who nearly came to blows with Arab writer and playwright Ali Ta'ah during a television program on Saturday. Ezra was seen pushing away Ta'ah's hands when the writer was gesticulating and prodding him.

In a letter to Knesset House Committee chairman, Raphael Pinhasi, the Hadash MKs wrote: "Ezra's attitude towards Arab MKs and public figures shows arrogance, crudeness and now also violence. Ezra must understand his days as [deputy head of] General Security Service are over and he should adopt more parliamentary behavior."

Ezra refused to comment.

PM: No amending Golan Heights Law

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

The government is opposed to amending the Golan Heights Law at this time, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's legal adviser, Shimon Stein, told the Knesset Law Committee yesterday.

This is not the moment, not the right time. There are certain contacts underway at present which could be harmed if the law is amended," Stein explained on behalf of the cabinet.

Netanyahu later confirmed to reporters that, although he had personally voted in favor of the law during a preliminary reading in the Knesset last summer, he opposed changing it now.

The committee convened yesterday to discuss the proposed amendment which Tsomet MK Eliezer Zandberg submitted as a private member's bill. Zandberg said he opposes any attempt to link a withdrawal from Lebanon ("which we are all hoping for as soon as it is feasible") to a withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Zandberg proposed that only a

majority of 80 MKs be allowed to change the Golan Heights Law in order to prevent a hasty decision.

But Yehoshua Schoffman, a deputy to the attorney-general, said that the bill had been discussed, and opposed, twice by the Ministerial Legal Committee. He said the prevailing opinion among legal experts, particularly the justices of the supreme court, was that regular laws should not be "beefed up" so as to require a special majority for changing them. Such a majority was warranted only in Basic Laws, they believed.

The Golan Heights Law which extended Israeli sovereignty over the area, was passed in 1981 with three readings in one day in the Knesset.

One after the other, coalition partners yesterday dissociated themselves from the proposal.

"I voted in favor [in the plenum], but I'm sorry now because such a bill would indicate to Syria that we are not interested in talking," Shas MK David Tal said.

"The [bill] is a sign of lack of public responsibility on the part of

the Knesset," said Tzvi Weinberg (Yisrael Ba'aliya). "It puts off even those of us who are opposed to withdrawal."

Moleket MK Benny Elon, who called on the government to withdraw the bill "if it is stuttering over it," caused a furor when he said, "nevertheless I don't want one Palestinian MK's vote deciding on the borders of a Jewish state."

"How would you feel if a French parliamentarian said that about a Jewish deputy in Paris?" retorted MK Azmi Bishara (Hadash).

Meretz MK Dedi Zucker and Labor MK Yossi Beilin expressed "great satisfaction" at the way the coalition was handling the issue. "I thought it would be a difficult debate," Zucker said.

Committee chairman Hanan Porat (NRP), who had originally proposed a vote on the draft amendment, said the committee would wait to hear from Netanyahu and would meanwhile heed a proposal from the Third Way to promote the idea of a national referendum on the future of the Golan.



New kid in town

Labor's new MK, Taiba

Mayor Rafik Haj-Yihye, seen yesterday in the Knesset, where he attended his first faction meeting. "We are glad to have you join us. Even though you have not yet sworn allegiance [in the plenum], you are a full-fledged member of our faction," faction secretary Elie Goldschmidt told him. He was also welcomed by party chairman Ehud Barak, who noted it was only a few days until the Pessah recess. "I'll take the time-out to learn about the Knesset," Haj-Yihye responded, adding that meanwhile, he hoped to see his home team, Hapoel Taiba, at the top of the National Football League. Haj-Yihye replaces Moshe Shahal, who retired last week.

(Text: BatSheva Tsur; Photo: Isaac Harari)

Mordechai to hold strategic talks in US

By ARNHE O'SULLIVAN

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai departs for the US tomorrow to hold strategic talks with American officials. Defense Ministry Director-General Ilan Biran and David Ivry, Mordechai's top strategic adviser, are already in the US laying the groundwork for these talks.

Mordechai is expected to ask the US to help Israel maintain its qualitative military edge.

Defense sources also said Israel is pushing for the US to commit itself to funding a third Arrow battery.

They said Defense Secretary William Cohen has previously agreed to support the Arrow battery in principle, but officials now hope to get a concrete commitment.

US Air Force Lt.-Gen. Lester Lyles, director of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, said in a recent interview that US-Israeli cooperation on the Arrow missile defense program is moving into a new stage of interoperability.

"We would ultimately like to have... is to share missile defense information with an Israeli Arrow or Israeli Patriot," Lyles was quoted as saying in *Jane's Defense Weekly*.

Mordechai's trip to Washington comes after the Defense Ministry announced that he is tentatively scheduled to visit China in the spring. But that trip may be postponed, since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu now plans

to visit in May.

A recent report in Germany's *Der Spiegel* said that Israel and China have conducted a test flight on the jointly developed F-10 fighter jet.

Mordechai's media adviser Avi Benayahu said he knew nothing of the reports and did not believe the Americans would raise the issue.

In addition to his official meetings, Mordechai is to be the guest of honor at a gala fund-raiser for IDF troops in Miami, sponsored by the American Friends of the Soldiers' Welfare Association.

Accompanying him will be the commander of the Givati Brigade as well as colonels from the air force and navy.

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by Seymour Fiedler

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NEWS

in brief

Suspect in rape of 14-year-old mother remanded

The Nazareth Magistrate's Court yesterday remanded for 10 days a 30-year-old man suspected of raping his 14-year-old neighbor, who gave birth on Sunday at Ha'emek Hospital in Afula. Judge Dina Moyal also banned publication of the suspect's name or photograph, in response to an appeal from police who fear that the victim's relatives could harm his family.

Police alleged that the suspect raped the girl a number of times when she was 13. Tests were being conducted to determine whether he is the infant's father. The suspect denied the allegations yesterday, saying, "I didn't do it. I didn't touch or go near the girl." *Itim*

Chef gets six years behind bars for rape

A 36-year-old chef convicted of raping a 20-year-old female deli worker was sentenced yesterday to six years in prison and a two-year suspended sentence by Tel Aviv District Court.

David Sigman, a chef in a Petah Tikva-based deli, committed the crime more than 18 months ago, five days after the woman began work. While driving her to an area where she was supposed to hand-out advertising leaflets, Sigman stopped in a secluded parking lot and forced sex on her.

In passing sentence, Judge Dvora Berliner said that rape "dishonors a woman's body, which is her shrine." *Galit Lipkis Beck*

School civil defense drill today

The nation's schools are scheduled to hold a civil defense drill today, with the participation of local authorities, the Home Front Command, police, Magen David Adom and the Fire and Rescue Service. Eight schools are to hold an intensive drill, which will involve donning gas masks, entering shelters, roof rescues, and treating "casualties."

"Given the tense Israeli reality, it's important for pupils to be aware that we might have to suddenly move to an emergency footing, with all its implications," Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled said. *Itim*

ULAI asks mayors to bypass teachers' sanctions

Karmiel Mayor Adi Eldar, chairman of the Union of Local Authorities in Israel, yesterday sent a letter to all its members urging them to follow the example of Ramat Gan Mayor Zvi Bar, who has assigned municipality workers to accompany high-school seniors on school trips in defiance of teachers' sanctions.

"Without relating to the teachers being right or wrong in this conflict," Eldar wrote, "it is clear beyond any doubt that irreversible damage is being caused to the education of high-school pupils" as a result. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Tel Aviv radio seeks exclusive broadcast rights

Radio Lelo Hafsaka appealed to Tel Aviv District Court yesterday for recognition of sole broadcasting rights in the Tel Aviv area. The appeal was submitted against Channel 2, the Ministry of Communications and Ministry of Finance. The local radio station maintained it was awarded exclusive broadcasting rights when it participated in the government radio tender. *Galit Lipkis Beck*

90% in central region have gas masks

Over 90 percent of those who live in the center of the country have acquired updated gas mask kits, OC Home Front Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ofir said yesterday. In peripheral areas, however, only 70% of residents have them. During the period of tensions with Iraq, some 1,300,000 people went to distribution centers to update, exchange or get new kits, he said. *Itim*

20 years after conviction

'Ma'atz Gang' may get retrial

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR and Itim

Supreme Court President Aharon Barak is to decide shortly whether to order a retrial of six men known as the "Ma'atz Gang" following a recommendation to this effect by Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein. Ma'atz is a Hebrew acronym for *Mo'ezet Avaryanin Tze'irim*, the Council of Young Felons.

The six were found guilty some 20 years ago of setting fire to the offices of the *Ha'aretz* newspaper and several other businesses in the Dan region. They were con-

victed on the basis of their own confessions.

Four years ago, however, Shai Simhi, one of the police officers who had been involved in the investigation, reportedly stated that he and his colleagues had forced the confessions from the six by torturing them. Simhi's version coincided with the defendants' claims at their original trial, when the court accepted the police version that there had not been undue physical force.

The six persistently maintained their innocence. The six convicted in 1979, and long since released, are: Gideon Harari, today 42,

of Tel Aviv (sentenced to 10 years); Uri Golbert, 45, of Or Yehuda (10); Haim Baum (5); Ya'acov Beldot, 43, of Herzliya (3); Yosef Rahamim, 44, of Alfei Menashe (3); and Pinhas Amzaleg (one year suspended).

The attorney-general has recommended a retrial to give them an opportunity to clear their names. Following Simhi's statement, the issue was sent to the Justice Ministry's department for investigating policemen. During the investigation, Simhi maintained that the confessions had been fabricated under pressure, one other police officer invoked his right to remain silent, and the

remaining investigators continued to deny having used force.

Since the police files relating to the investigation could not be found, the ministry officials were forced to base their investigation on the court files from two decades ago.

Noting this in his recommendation to reopen the case, Rubinstein said that despite the suspicion that justice may not have been done in the original trial, it is not clear whether it will be possible to reach the truth after 20 years "because of the long time that has elapsed, [the tendency to] forget, and the disappearance of some of the evidence."



German official mourns fallen soldiers

The president of the Upper House of the German Parliament, Gerhard Schröder, begins a three-day visit to Israel and the Palestinian Authority yesterday by placing a wreath at the Knesset memorial to the unknown soldier. Schröder, who also is prime minister of Lower Saxony, leads the Social-Democratic Party and is a candidate for the post of federal chancellor in September's national election. He is to meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat today. (Photo: Isaac Harari; Text: Jay Bushinsky)

Tuberculosis cases on the rise again

By JUDY SIEGEL

Nearly 20 percent of tuberculosis strains in Israel are resistant to at least one type of antibiotics, Dr. Mordechai Kremer, director of the respiratory disease institute at the

Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus, said yesterday.

Kremer, who spoke on the eve of World TB Day, which is today, said that the incidence of the lung disease has increased in recent years both locally and throughout

the Western world.

Although it was considered eradicated several decades ago, TB bounced back with the rise of AIDS and the development of resistant strains of bacteria, he said. This led to the World Health

Organization's announcement in 1993 of a "global TB emergency."

Most new cases have been diagnosed in recent immigrants. Some 450 cases are reported each year and dozens are diagnosed at the Petah Tikva Hospital.

Time running out for capital squatters

By ELLI WOHLGELER-SPINTER

The clock is ticking for the 17 families living in the shack village across from the Prime Minister's Office. By tomorrow morning, Jerusalem police are expected to arrive in force to carry out the eviction notices the families received last week.

Jenny Sosson sat in the living room of her neighbor, Berry Granadina, along with seven others living in the ramshackle structures. Almost all were chain-smoking, some biting fingernails, as they reviewed the situation again and again.

"They say they want to put us up for a couple of days in a hotel, or a motel, they don't say," said Sosson. "It'll probably be the cheapest and grossest one."

"Where can I go?" asked the 23-year-old Granadina, holding her six-month baby girl on her lap. "I have no place to go!" Certainly not to her mother's, for the woman is sitting on the chair next to her.

Shula Levy also lives in the hut village, and as Pessah approaches, she says she's in a ditty.

"I can't do any cleaning of the house, my head's in another place," Levy said. "Usually before a holiday it's a very festive atmosphere here, but now I can't do it. I'm worried all the time." Sosson also bemoaned the cruel fate of being evicted from their homes two weeks before the holiday of freedom, following the fire on March 3 that gutted the homes of five families living there.

"It's Pessah now, and we're being thrown out on the streets! We wouldn't have cared as much, if only they would have let us stay here over Pessah, for us to solve the situation then. But it's very close—in two weeks it's Pessah—what can we do? I don't have any place to go. My husband's parents don't have any room in their house, and my parents are in Los Angeles—I don't have any family here."

She said a representative from the Housing Ministry visited on Sunday and said they would get money for apartments, after they move into hotels. One place mentioned as a final destination was Beersheva.

"This is an unjust law. Once, those who spoke Yiddish got an apartment in the center of the country. Those who didn't know Yiddish got an apartment in Netivot. And it's clear that those who live in the center of the country are getting greater benefits than those who live in the development towns. Therefore, this bill is unreasonable," he said.

Sheerit said the homes should not be "given away for almost free" but suggested a return to a previous system under which residents could buy the homes for up to 50% of their market value. This system operated under previous Likud governments but was abolished by Labor, he said.

Deputy Housing and Construction Minister Meir Pnush (United Torah Judaism) said the bill would cost the state some NIS 40 billion and make it impossible to free up public housing for those who need it now. He said that many of the long-term residents no longer require social assistance.

Cohen said that every apartment sold would help a needy family and the income from the sales should be earmarked for building more housing units.

Labor whip Elie Goldschmidt, meanwhile, thanked Sheerit "for finally saying he has no confidence in the prime minister."

'Analyzer' not cooperating with police

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN and news agencies

In an abrupt change of attitude, Ehud Tannenbaum, the alleged computer hacker called the "Analyzer," has stopped cooperating with police, his lawyer, Amnon Zichroni, said yesterday.

Zichroni said that Tannenbaum, 18, had not realized how seriously authorities would take the allegations against him.

"He assumed at first that they would see this episode as a youthful mistake," Zichroni told The Associated Press.

"There are two ways to treat such a boy. You can try and destroy him for what he did, or you can try and rehabilitate him and harness his talents for the benefit of society."

Zichroni said he believed the American authorities pursuing this case were primarily responsible for the vigor of the investigation.

He suggested that Israeli prosecutors should weigh the damage of Tannenbaum's actions against his potential to contribute to society.

"We are talking about a boy who is about to be drafted. I am sure the army could find a good way to use him," he said.

Tannenbaum was arrested on March 18 on suspicion of breaking into several computer systems in Israel and the United States, including the Pentagon system. Police initially said that Tannenbaum, who is under house arrest, was cooperating fully and providing satisfactory answers to all their questions.

Zichroni said questioning had been suspended while Tannenbaum recovers from the flu and would resume as soon as his fever goes down.

Police spokeswoman Linda Menuhin would not comment on the investigation. Zichroni said he expects his

client to be charged under a 1995 Israeli law against breaking into computer systems, which provides for up to a three-year prison sentence. No one has ever been prosecuted for violating the law, he said.

Zichroni also criticized the FBI's handling of the case. Commenting on reports that the FBI agents had complained that Israeli investigators were not applying full pressure on Tannenbaum, Zichroni said: "The State of Israel is not a banana republic, but a sovereign state, and the decisions regarding the investigation will be made by the Israeli police and not by American investigators."

He said that "the FBI people had better not interfere with the defense, while the defense won't meddle with the FBI's considerations."

Computer hackers, meanwhile, have been breaking into secured sites to protest Tannenbaum's arrest.

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Jewish-Catholic dialogue begins at Vatican

By LISA PALMIERI-BILLIG

ROME — Just a few days after the release of the Vatican document "We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah," over 40 top Jewish and Catholic representatives are meeting at the Vatican to discuss "Education: What and How Do We and Ought We Teach About Each Other."

While this theme has no overt relation to the Shoah document, since it was chosen over a year ago, participants have no doubt that discussion will include its possible implementation in religious education.

In light of widely expressed disappointment over some of the contents of the document, which was 10 years in the making, participants see this meeting as an opportunity for further clarification and stressing the positive aspects of this important text.

Since the mid Seventies there have been nearly annual meetings, in different parts of the world, of the International Liaison Committee (ILC), which was created to function as the official body for Catholic-Jewish dialogue in the

aftermath of the Second Vatican Council. It is composed of Catholic experts chosen by the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations with Jews, and Jewish delegates comprising the multi-organizational International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC). The IJCIC is meeting inside Vatican walls for the first time.

The IJCIC includes delegates from the Anti-Defamation League, B'nai B'rith International, the Israel Jewish Council for Interreligious Relations as well as other interreligious bodies in Israel, rabbinical representatives of all streams, and the World Jewish Congress.

Catholic experts come from Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, the Palestinian Authority, Poland, Switzerland, the US and the Vatican.

Keynote speakers are Cardinal Edward Cassidy, president of the Vatican Commission, and Dr. Gerhard Riegner, honorary vice president of the World Jewish Congress. The meeting is to conclude Thursday with an audience with Pope John Paul II.

Latin patriarch's first-ever visit follows year of discussions

Sabbah meets chief rabbis

By HAIM SHAPIRO

Rabbis representing Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron have been meeting for the past year in the Old City with theologians representing Jerusalem Mufti Sabri El-Khatib and the heads of the Christian communities, Bakshi-Doron said yesterday.

The Sephardi chief rabbi was speaking to reporters following the unprecedented visit of Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah to Bakshi-Doron and Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau.

"It is an error to think that the dispute [between Arabs and Jews] is religious. The dispute is political and historical," Bakshi-Doron said.

At the close of the meeting, the two chief rabbis and the patriarch issued a joint call against violence and the use of religion as a pretext for violence. However, Sabbah stressed that he opposes all violence, whether carried out by the IDF or by Palestinians. Sabbah also refused to apologize for the position of the Church during the Holocaust, claiming that the churches of the Middle East had not been a party to the mistakes made by Christians in Europe.

"The churches here in the east were not part of the mistakes of the church. We did not do it and we condemn it. If I apologize it is as if I did it," Sabbah said.

However, those involved in the meeting denied that there was any connection between its timing and the release of the Vatican document on the Holocaust last week. Waddeh Abu-Nassar, a lay aide to the patriarch, said the date of yesterday's visit had been set three



Sephardi Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron (left), Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah (center) and Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau speak to reporters after their meeting in Jerusalem yesterday. (Isaac Harari)

months ago. Abu-Nassar revealed that he had first suggested such a meeting shortly after Christmas.

Although Bakshi-Doron met Sabbah at an inter-religious conference in Rabat last month and Lau has met with Pope John Paul II in Italy, this was the first meeting between these leading Jewish and Christian religious figures in Jerusalem. When asked why such

a meeting had not taken place previously, Sabbah answered that he simply could not say.

"I don't know. There is no reason," the patriarch said.

Before the meeting, Lau asked Sabbah about the various communities of the Catholic Church. The chief rabbi appeared startled to hear that in addition to masses in Arabic and other languages, the

Church also has masses in Hebrew "for Jews who are Christians."

During the meeting, the three appeared to have differed when Sabbah protested "the closure of Jerusalem." He said he understands that the Israelis want security, but he said that in view of the special importance of the holy city, the authorities must find some other way to ensure security.

In reply, the chief rabbis noted that hundreds of thousands of Moslem worshippers came to Jerusalem from the territories during Ramadan. Uri Mor, director of the Religious Affairs Ministry department for Christian communities, also noted that the government regularly makes arrangements for the entry of Christians for their feasts.

Poll: US Jews favor sanctions on Swiss

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — The majority of American Jews believe that Switzerland is being uncooperative in accounting for its dealings with the Nazis and would support sanctions against Swiss banks and companies, according to a public opinion survey released yesterday by the American Jewish Committee.

This is the first authoritative survey of US Jewish opinion about the Swiss since the World Jewish Congress began agitating more than two years ago to recover the dormant and unclaimed Holocaust-era accounts in Swiss banks.

The Swiss received the results with disappointment. "We are deeply disappointed that our diplomatic efforts for truth, justice and understanding are apparently not well enough known or appreciated," said a spokesman in Bern for the Swiss Foreign Ministry's task force on World War II.

The AJC released the results only days before state and local public finance officials in the US are to announce whether they plan to lift a moratorium on sanctions against Swiss banks over unsettled Holocaust-era claims.

American sanctions could boomerang. The president of the Swiss Radical Democratic Party, a member of the government's coalition, said last week that Bern should consider punishing US companies if sanctions are imposed against the Swiss banks.

The Swiss banks face \$20-billion class-action lawsuits in the US, as well as WJC demands for a

settlement, for failure to restore Jewish bank accounts to survivors and heirs after the war.

When asked by the AJC if the Swiss government is being cooperative or uncooperative in providing an accounting of its dealings with the Nazis during World War II, 72 percent of those surveyed said "uncooperative," while only 18 percent said "cooperative." American Jews were divided over the question of sanctions. A majority, 53%, said they would support sanctions and boycotts against Swiss banks and companies to "prod" the Swiss government to give a full accounting of those dealings, while 43 percent said they would oppose such measures.

However, 86 percent supported "quiet diplomacy" by the US government, while 59 percent also backed "public protest and demonstrations by Jews and others" to induce the Swiss to act.

The questions on Switzerland were part of the AJC's "1998 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion." The poll interviewed a representative sample of 1,001 adult US Jews between February 19 and March 8.

Swiss banks and industry created a humanitarian fund, with some \$200 million in assets, to be divided among needy Nazi victims. The World Jewish Restitution Organization is responsible for allocating the Jewish portion of the fund, which was established on March 1, 1997. Survivors in Latvia and Hungary have been the only Jewish victims to benefit thus far; they have received \$400 each.

Holon man remanded in murder of ex-wife

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The 46-year-old Holon man suspected of beating his former wife to death with a hammer as she slept was remanded yesterday for another three days by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court.

Hanoch Hoffman, attacked 37-year-old Ayala Dami-Hoffman on Friday in the apartment that they shared in Holon. Several hours later the suspect called police to say that he had struck his wife and she wasn't moving. He was promptly arrested, and then remanded for four days while an ambulance took the woman to Sheba Hospital, Tel Hashomer, where she died.

Judge Gilad Naimel decided yesterday the defendant should undergo further psychiatric observation while remaining in custody for three more days. Hoffman's lawyer, Yigal Oron, asked the court to isolate Hoffman from other prisoners and keep him on a suicide watch.

Oron said his client underwent open heart surgery about a year ago, and later suffered a stroke. Hoffman also was hospitalized several months ago after a suicide attempt. Relatives said that Hoffman again attempted to kill himself last week by swallowing pills and slashing his wrists. He was treated at Wolfson Hospital.

The lawyer said he is unable to communicate with his client. He said Hoffman beat his former wife but he was not responsible for his actions.

Still time to try stepson's molester

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The statute of limitations cannot be invoked in the case against an unnamed public figure who is accused of committing indecent acts, including sodomy, on his stepson, the Tel Aviv District Court ruled yesterday.

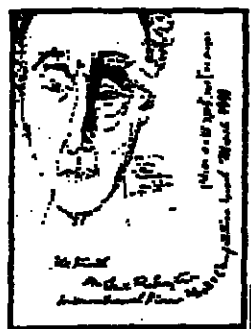
Under the statute of limitations, suspects cannot be prosecuted for offenses committed over 10 years ago. Judges Amnon Strashnov, Ze'ev Hammer, and Shelly Timan said that in a case in which a minor is abused, the 10 years begin when the victim turns 18. According to the charge sheet, the stepfather's acts were committed over a 10-year period that began when the stepson, now 26, was five and ended in 1987, when he was 15.

Attorney Shmuel Chang argued that, due to the statute of limitations, legal action could not be taken against his client for the offenses committed before December 1987, more than 10 years before police began investigating.

Strashnov said in this case a "chain of offenses" was committed. The judge said it is not possible to separate between the offenses, which at certain times were committed on a daily basis. Therefore, he said, the statute of limitations would apply from the last time an offense was committed, which was on December 25, 1987.

Strashnov thus ruled that the suspect can be brought to trial until the year 2000 — 10 years from when the stepson reached 18.

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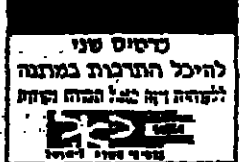
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דיונות ארזות

Up here, down there

In Africa, the poor have nothing to give and the rich nothing to receive.

Zaire's got to be great - I've never seen so many Mercedes," said Muhammad Ali when he went there for his famous "rumble in the jungle."

Well, with Bill Clinton on his grand tour of Africa, and the pop in Nigeria, all foreign correspondents on earth are flipping through their little black books of Dark Continent clichés.

Even the *New York Times* informs us that "for millennia, Africa has largely remained a mystery to the outside world."

We all know, the entire outside world remains a mystery to most Africans, but no landmass on Earth has been more thoroughly explored, raped, pillaged, plundered, enslaved, and dumped by such a motley gang of foreigners - Arabs, British, French, Germans, Italians, Spanish, Portuguese, Americans and Russians have all done their bloody bit to rip away the veil of mystery.

The arrival of the big white chief from America and the big white man from the Vatican may be a big deal to their awe-struck, enthralled, but it's a trip from "up here" to down there. Africans will supply the clichés for the cameras and get on with their mostly miserable lives.

Try aid

Yesterday's tribal dancers leaped and yelled and drummers drummed a welcome for Clinton in the muddy streets of Ghana's capital Accra. President Jerry Rawlings turned up in designer leopard skin to pour a not-so-traditional African libation - champagne - to the gods.

Rawlings seized control of Ghana twice by military coups, in 1979 and 1981. The American spin doctors preferred to emphasize his "free election as president in 1996."

One should not be too cynical perhaps, though it is hard to take the suspension of objectivity that trails along in the wake of a US presidential visit. It is to Clinton's credit that he is the first American president to tour Africa in 20 years. It is a nod to the gods of cynicism that "trade" is said to be the major focus of the trip - the word could be an abbreviation of "try aid."

That hasn't worked either. As a newspaper once commented on a trade visit to Africa by a British leader: "Modern war is so expensive that we feel trade to be a better road to plunder..."

Giant huns

Every federal state in the United States is not only more democratic, but probably richer than every independent state in Africa (South Africa excepted). That is not the only abyss. It

would be interesting to know how many Americans could point out on a blank map the countries their president will be calling on, never mind asking why.

The states probably have been chosen because they represent the best of modern Africa in terms of progress towards democracy and the welfare of their people. These are relative terms in Africa, and blood-soaked Rwanda scarcely measures up to medieval criteria, let alone modern ones.

Thus Clinton missed out on the two giant countries of Africa - Nigeria and Congo (former Zaire). He left it to Pope John Paul to castigate the dictator Sani Abacha for his civil and moral rights abuses. And he declined to give a stamp of approval to the Congo of Laurent Kabila, the man who appears to have replaced Mobutu Sese Seko with Mobutu Sese Kabila.

The American hero of all time in Africa (aside from Muhammad Ali) was John F. Kennedy, and Africans are aware that Clinton sees himself as the Kennedy of the '90s. It was he who introduced real Americans to real Africans via the Peace Corps - and the first of them went to Ghana, Clinton's first stop. Every 10 or 20 years, Washington seems to suddenly remember that Africa exists other than as a place that generates famines and wars and genocide and particularly brutal and primitive dictators. It wakes up briefly to a real interest in the continent, sending a frisson of hope down the sub-Saharan spine. But American interest has always proved brief and shallow.

Sorry no checks

Most surges of US interest in Africa have been short-lived and followed by unfulfilled promises, half-hearted involvement, indifference and diplomatic neglect. The American debacle in Somalia led directly to its near indifference to the awful massacres in Rwanda.

Clinton will be welcome everywhere, but it is his trip to South Africa that will be the undoubted star turn. South Africa is seen as the last, best hope for Africa, and powerful American support is the first, best hope for South Africa. But there's a long way to go.

Unlike Asian nations, most African nations are not talking about capital investments and high-tech parks. They are still seeking better food, clean water, disease control. They are not asking for improved health care and better education, but for any health care and basic education.

Amid all this, American assistance to Africa is at its lowest since Clinton first came to power. The US economy is at its highest point in history. Denmark sends as much aid to Africa as does the United States. There's the reality check - and it's not in the mail.

In the line of fire

A recent report sharply criticizes the US Defense Department's anti-missile program

By BRADLEY GRAHAM

WASHINGTON - Pentagon efforts to speed into operation anti-missile weapons inspired by President Reagan's "Star Wars" proposal are marred by poor planning, insufficient testing and political pressure to hasten inauguration of the defensive systems, according to an independent panel appointed by the Defense Department.

In a 76-page report prompted by a series of flight test failures, the panel warned against a "rush to failure" in what, at a cost of nearly \$4 billion a year, has become the Defense Department's most expensive category of weapons research and development projects.

The report, which the Pentagon has not publicized since it was submitted earlier this month, said decisions by officials to accept abbreviated timetables and minimal numbers of flight tests in developing the anti-missile systems have raised the risk of more failures, delays and cost overruns.

The sharply negative critique runs counter to the strong political support for anti-missile systems, especially among Republicans in Congress. 15 years after Reagan put forward his vision of a space-based arsenal that would make the US impenetrable by enemy missiles.

Since taking control of Congress

three years ago, the Republicans have succeeded in adding hundreds of millions of dollars to spending on anti-missile systems that are less ambitious than Star Wars but push the envelope of existing technology.

GOP defense experts on Capitol Hill were quick to dismiss the panel's findings, saying the authors of the report failed to appreciate how the urgent need for missile defenses justifies unconventional methods and more inventive development programs than those for other weapons systems.

"It would have been more valuable had the report focused on innovative procedures for putting these systems in the field faster while reducing the inherent risks," said a House staff member familiar with the report. "The attitudes of congressional members are likely to remain unchanged."

A spokesman for the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization, which coordinates the Pentagon's various anti-missile programs, said the panel's findings were under review. He said "some adjustments" already were planned to improve testing and evaluation methods, among them, more ground simulations prior to costlier flight tests, more backup parts in test, and greater attention to quality control.

But he saw little prospect of slowing the programs in line with

the panel's recommendations, saying the schedule for developing the systems was dictated by political leaders and military commanders concerned about the spread of ballistic missiles and the vulnerability of American troops and US territory to attack.

The schedule for the farthest reaching anti-missile effort - a defensive umbrella over the territory of the US - was hammered out between the Clinton administration and Congress in 1996.

It committed the Defense Department to spend three years researching and developing a national shield more modest than the one envisioned by Reagan's "Star Wars" proposal, with the understanding that if a decision were made in 2000 to deploy the system, it could be fielded within three additional years.

The 16-member panel was the most experienced collection of civilian and retired military officers to have studied the anti-missile effort, defense officials said. Headed by Larry Welch, a retired four-star general and former Air Force chief of staff, the panel included specialists who oversaw earlier development of missile, aeronautical and naval programs while working either at the Pentagon or for major defense contractors.

Citing lessons learned from the Peacekeeper intercontinental ballistic missile, which was created

under intense pressure in the 1980s, the panel cautioned that little of the management discipline, careful planning and thorough analysis that characterized the 6-year development effort is evident in the anti-missile programs.

"Specifically, the perceived urgency of the need for these systems has led to high levels of risk that have resulted in delayed deployments because of failures in their development test programs," said the report, which was sponsored by the head of the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization and two senior defense officials responsible for operational testing.

The panel recommended adopting more "realistic schedules" for the battlefield anti-missile systems being pursued by the Army and Navy and due for deployment over the next several years to protect forces abroad. It also urged restructuring of the plan for constructing a national missile defense.

In about a month the Pentagon intends to select the contractor that will be responsible for building the national system, an event that has turned into a showdown between the nation's two aerospace giants, Lockheed Martin Co. of Bethesda, Md., and Boeing Co. of Seattle.

Rather than Reagan's proposed comprehensive space-based defense, the program now aims at constructing a largely ground-based system that would protect country

against accidental launch or limited attack by up to 20 missiles.

The technical challenges in developing even a scaled-down system are impressive. The plan envisions having space-based military sensors detecting the launch of an enemy missile within seconds. The US then would fire a ground-based interceptor missile, most likely from Grand Forks, N.D., or possibly an alternate site in Alaska.

Ground radars would feed tracking information to the interceptor and help guide it into a supersonic collision with the incoming warhead, in what the Pentagon calls a "hit to kill." This approach to missile defense remains fraught with technical problems. Prototype interceptors have failed to score hits routinely under benign conditions, let alone under the stressful circumstances of combat. Over the past decade, only four of 17 flight tests involving a variety of interceptors have been declared successful.

While the latest version of interceptor sensors did manage to locate and track potential targets in the two most recent flight trials, no tests have attempted to integrate the entire system: interceptors, radars and controlling networks. Only one such test is scheduled ahead of when the government is supposed to decide, in 2000, whether to buy the system at an estimated cost of \$5 billion or more. (The Washington Post)

Pope calls for an end to corruption in Nigeria

By JAMES RUPERT

OBA, Nigeria - Perhaps a million Nigerians jammed onto a dusty plain near this village Sunday to see Pope John Paul II and applaud his call for an end to corrupt, authoritarian military rule in Africa's most populous nation.

In heat that reached nearly 40 degrees, Nigerians walked, biked, and traveled in packed buses along clogged roads to a vast expanse of rust-colored earth in this village outside the southern city of Onitsha. Others had arrived the night before to camp out.

At an outdoor Mass, the pope beatified Michael Iwene Tansi, a local priest who died 24 years ago, making him Nigeria's first candidate for sainthood in the Roman Catholic Church. The ceremony was the main official reason for what the Vatican has called a pastoral visit to Nigeria.

But the pope stressed his appeal for democracy, reconciliation and social justice. Successive governments, mostly military, have enriched a small elite and deepened the poverty of most Nigerians with corruption that has ruined the powerful, oil-rich economy. Political tensions have increased with signs that the current leader, Gen. Sani Abacha, may run in an election this year to choose a civilian president.

On Saturday the pope asked Abacha to free about 60 political prisoners. Sunday he spoke to millions of Nigerians on state television and radio, which broadcast the cere-



Pope John Paul II and Nigerian President Sani Abacha wave to a crowd in Abuja last week. During his visit, the pope asked Abacha to free about 60 political prisoners. (AP)

mony live. While he did not name the military regimes that have ruled Nigeria for 28 of its 38 years of independence, he echoed criticisms of them by Western governments, international human rights groups and Nigerian democracy activists.

In the damp, suffocating heat, the 77-year-old pontiff cut his prepared homily by a third, jettisoning reflections on Bible readings but keeping his full text on Nigeria's political, social and economic ills. "All Nigerians must work to rid society of everything that offends the dignity of the human person or

violates human rights," he said.

Nigerian officials openly conceded that billions of dollars in oil profits and government funds have vanished in recent years, without benefit to Nigerians who earn, on average, less than \$300 annually.

"God, in fact, has blessed this land with human and natural wealth," said the pope. "and it is everyone's duty to ensure that these resources are used for the good of the whole people. As your nation pursues a peaceful transition to a democratic civilian government, there is a need for politicians [who]

wish to serve rather than be served," he said. The crowd interrupted him with applause.

"There can be no place for intimidation of the poor and the weak... the misuse of authority or the abuse of power," he said to more clapping and cheers.

Behind the pope's podium, Paul Adewere stood among a group of Nigerian nuns, security guards and ambulance crews straining to catch the address from distant speakers. "The pope is saying what Nigerians want to hear," Adewere said. "We want most to

have people of integrity in our public offices."

As much as they endorsed the pontiff's political themes, people appeared thrilled simply that he had come. Western powers have isolated Abacha's government and kept their leaders away. "We are all so happy that the Holy Father is here, just because it means that he loves us," said a nun.

Nigerians voiced pride at being part of one of Africa's most important countries - and hurt at its international image as a sort of incompetent giant that, despite its wealth, can neither feed nor govern itself.

"The visit of the pope comes to us like a redeeming factor in a situation where we have been having so much bad news," said John Onaiyekan, archbishop of Abuja, the capital.

In his speech, the pontiff stressed "the importance of reconciliation with God and by people among themselves. This is the task which lies before the church in this land of Nigeria and on this continent of Africa."

He cited the Nigerian priest beatified here as a model. Father Tansi, an ascetic local priest who labored in villages to improve people's lives, spent his last 13 years in an English monastery before his death in 1964. Years later, when his body was returned to Nigeria for reburial, local doctors and priests reported that a woman appeared to have been cured of cancer after touching the casket during prayer. (The Washington Post)

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DRIVE CAREFULLY

Clinton opens historic tour of Africa

By SONYA ROSS

ACCRA, Ghana (AP) — Predicting a new African renaissance, US President Bill Clinton opened an historic tour of Africa by promising America will help promote trade and democracy in a continent still beset by the perils of civil war and poverty.

"It is time for Americans to put a new Africa on our map," the president told a throng in Ghana's Independence Square.

Clinton said the most extensive African trip ever by an American president should mark the "beginning of a new African renaissance." Tens of thousands of cheering people gathered to welcome the president and his wife, Hillary, who toured a day-care center.

Alarmed by crowds pressing forward after his speech, Clinton at one point shouted, "Back! Back!"

After Ghana, Clinton is visiting Uganda, Rwanda, South Africa, Botswana and Senegal to applaud gains in democracy and open the door to trade. The last trip to Africa by an American president was Jimmy Carter's visit to two countries 20 years ago.

"Today, from Ghana to Mozambique, from Cote d'Ivoire to Uganda, growing economies are fueling a transformation in Africa," Clinton said. "For all this promise, you and I know Africa is not free from peril."

He cited genocide in Rwanda, civil wars in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Congo, a military dictatorship in Nigeria and continent-wide malnutrition, disease, illiteracy and unemployment.

"The Cold War is gone. Colonialism is gone. Apartheid is gone. Yet remnants of past troubles remain," Clinton said, expressing hope that Africa one day would leave behind its in-fighting and wars. "Surely there will come a time when reconciliation will replace recrimination."

African countries also are beginning to enjoy increased trade that will spur political changes. "Growing economies are fueling a transformation in Africa," Clinton said.

Since 1990, the number of countries with elected governments in



President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary talk to Ghana President Jerry Rawlings and his wife Nana in Accra yesterday. (Reuters)

sub-Saharan Africa rose from five to 24 — half of the 48 in the region. Per capita incomes rose in 31 countries in 1996 — although 22 of the world's 30 poorest countries are in Africa.

Ghanaian President Jerry Rawlings welcomed Clinton to "the gateway to Africa," and said he, too, saw a new economic age dawning in Africa. Rawlings draped a hero's cloth, or "kente", over Clinton's shoulders.

"This continent is ready and very

able to do business in this world," Rawlings said. "By allowing individuals to flourish our communities and nations also flourish."

Rawlings noted an ugly chapter of slave trade between the two continents, saying, "The circumstances of that time more than chilled our hearts."

"But today, out of that tragic trade episode have arisen the indissoluble bonds that link the people of Ghana with the people of the United States," he said.

Clinton noted the 33 million black Americans descended from Africans and said he hoped his trip would dispel stereotypes about the continent. He also quoted America's most famous black hero, Martin Luther King Jr., who visited Ghana in 1957, the year it gained independence. Recalling King's famous "I have a dream" speech, Clinton said, "We are hardly finished, but we have traveled a long way on the wings of that dream."

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Iraq, UN inspectors meet amid 'new spirit'

By DOMINIC EVANS

BAGHDAD (Reuters) — Chief UN weapons inspector Richard Butler held his first talks with Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz yesterday since a crisis over inspections almost triggered military strikes on Iraq.

Witnesses said the two men, who are expected to discuss plans to inspect eight presidential sites at the center of the dispute, shook hands warmly at the start of their meeting at the Foreign Ministry.

Butler has spoken of a new spirit of cooperation from Iraq since it signed an accord a month ago pledging full access to UN inspectors charged with overseeing the elimination of its weapons of mass destruction.

He said he expected inspections of the presidential sites, where UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) inspectors believe Iraq may have concealed material related to banned weapons programs, to begin before the end of the month.

"I will meet the deputy prime minister tomorrow and will offer him my professional commitment to this new spirit and to getting this job done and I assume he will do the same towards me," Butler said, shortly after arriving in Baghdad on Sunday.

The UNSCOM chairman's last talks with Aziz in January came at a time of escalating tension between Iraq and the United Nations. Iraq had barred an UNSCOM team led by former US marine Scott Ritter from working and was refusing to allow inspections of the presidential sites.

The United States mobilized a large military force and threatened heavy punitive strikes unless Iraq backed down.

But since the February 23 accord signed by Aziz and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Iraq has given a very high degree of cooperation, Butler said. Ritter returned to Iraq in early March for a week of unhindered inspections of sensitive sites.

"I welcome it. I hope it continues. If it does we can do our part of this job...without the passage of too much time," he said, adding that there had been a reduction in what he termed Iraqi rhetoric against UNSCOM.

Iraqi anger at UNSCOM, which Baghdad says is prolonging its work to extend sanctions imposed on Iraq for the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, has not completely evaporated.

Aziz was reported as saying last week he did not trust Butler. Iraq's most influential newspaper *Babel*, owned by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday, referred to the UNSCOM chairman as "Mad Dog Butler" in its report on his arrival.

Butler was joined on his visit to Baghdad by UN undersecretary-general for disarmament affairs Jayantha Dhanapala, charged with overseeing inspection of the presidential sites under the deal reached one month ago.

Dhanapala has set up a team of 20 senior diplomats who will accompany UNSCOM inspectors when they enter presidential sites.

Asked if the long-awaited first inspections of those sites would take place by the end of March, Butler said: "Probably."

Chernomyrdin symbolized stability and calm

BACKGROUND

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Viktor Chernomyrdin, whose government was dismissed yesterday, was a five-year veteran as Russian prime minister who had come to represent stability and calm in an era of dramatic post-Soviet changes.

A reluctant convert to pro-reform policies, Chernomyrdin, 59, presided over the vast privatization of former state assets and the development of a market economy.

A former head of state gas monopoly Gazprom, the bald, burly and often long-winded Chernomyrdin has long been seen as a leading candidate to replace Boris Yeltsin when the president's term expires in 2000.

He reacted calmly to Yeltsin's shocking announcement that the entire government had been dismissed.

"I want to tell you openly that I worked six years in the government, five years as prime minister, and was always ready for this turn of events," he told a news conference. "This was not a tragedy for me."

Apparently as consolation, Chernomyrdin was awarded a medal — the Order for Services to



Viktor Chernomyrdin (Reuters)

the Fatherland, Second Class — and asked to spearhead preparations for the pro-government party, Our Home is Russia, for parliamentary elections next year and presidential elections in 2000.

"I will concentrate on political work, on organizing preparations for the 1999 elections, and of course, above all this will involve the year 2000 elections," he said in measured, calm remarks.

Chernomyrdin had waged, and just about won, a constant battle to keep pro-market policies on track, and earned a reputation as a reliable, if not radical, guarantor of reforms.

The main ingredient of his success has been his loyalty to Yeltsin. But he also has been rewarded for avoiding giving the impression he

wants to be president — even when he took the reins of power for a day when Yeltsin had heart surgery in 1996.

Yeltsin appointed Chernomyrdin as prime minister in December 1992, less than a year after the start of free-market reforms under the more radical Yegor Gaidar, who was deeply unpopular in power at the time. As other ministers came and left in rapid succession, the man who started his career as a plumber weathered a series of crises. He stayed loyal to Yeltsin in 1993, when the president turned his tanks on the rebel Soviet-era parliament, and during the unpopular war in Chechnya from 1994 to 1996. In 1995 parliamentary elections, Chernomyrdin headed campaign efforts by Our Home is Russia as Yeltsin stayed above the political fray.

Part of Chernomyrdin's success stems from his image as a typical and down-to-earth Russian man, or *muzhik*, who enjoys playing the accordion in his rare spare moments. He gets along well with the mostly male members of the country's leadership and opposition.

He managed to avoid unnecessary confrontation with the opposition Communists by winning their respect, while the government's radical reformers faced bitter personal attacks.

Russian foreign policy unchanged

MOSCOW — Russia's foreign policy will not change in any way as a result of President Boris Yeltsin's dismissal of the government, and this week's summit with France and Germany will go ahead as planned, the Kremlin said yesterday.

"Russian foreign policy is based on long-term national interests, and changes in the government cannot influence its course," Sergei Yastrzhembsky told a news conference.

"This week the planned meeting between the president, Federal Chancellor (Helmut) Kohl and French President Jacques Chirac will take place," he said.

The summit is intended to be the first in a series of regular meetings between the three leaders. Discussions are expected to focus on the crises in Iraq and Kosovo, as well as on relations between Russia, France and Germany.

The Kremlin had moved the meeting from

Yekaterinburg, in the Urals, to just outside Moscow in order to save Yeltsin the two-hour flight. Yastrzhembsky said Kohl and Chirac would fly into Moscow tomorrow at around 11 p.m. local time (2000 GMT).

"The actual meeting will take place at the Bor government residence 48 km. outside Moscow," he said. The Kremlin said last Friday that Yeltsin's doctors, who have been treating him for an acute respiratory infection he caught on March 12, had advised him not to take long flights.

Yeltsin's next long flight is scheduled for mid-April, when he is due to go to Japan for informal talks with Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto.

Yastrzhembsky described the president's health yesterday as "superb" and said the visit to Japan would go ahead as planned. (Agencies)

Surprised world takes Russia shakeup in stride

By PAUL TAYLOR

LONDON (Reuters) — A surprised world took Russian President Boris Yeltsin's shock dismissal of his entire government yesterday in its stride, confident that neither economic reform nor foreign policy would be jeopardized.

US President Bill Clinton, in Ghana at the start of an African tour, told reporters: "I hope the general direction of the policy will be unaffected," adding there was "no reason to think that it would."

A White House spokesman acknowledged that Washington had no advance word of the shake-up, which Yeltsin said in a television address was to make way for a more decisive and energetic approach to economic reform.

The Kremlin hastened to say Russian foreign policy would not be affected by the dismissal of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin's cabinet,

and that Thursday's summit with French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will go ahead in Moscow.

"Russian foreign policy is based on long-term national interests, and changes in the government cannot influence its course," Sergei Yastrzhembsky told a news conference.

Britain, which currently holds the European Union's rotating presidency, said it did not expect any changes in the EU's underlying relationship with Russia.

"We are watching developments very closely. We don't expect any change in the United Kingdom's or the European Union's underlying relationship with Russia," a Foreign Office spokesman said.

"In particular we want to see the process of economic reform continuing," he said.

A French foreign ministry spokesman echoed

that priority, telling reporters: "President Yeltsin said the economic reform course would be maintained, and that is the essential point for us."

The Kremlin said Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov had been asked to stay in office pending the reshuffle and would stick to his schedule.

He met the visiting Cuban foreign minister yesterday and will travel to Bonn today for dinner with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright ahead of a crucial six-power meeting on Kosovo tomorrow.

Primakov was quoted as saying: "Our foreign policy will not change, it will be the same. We will defend our interests, without sliding towards confrontation."

Yastrzhembsky said a planned visit by Yeltsin to Japan in mid-April would go ahead as planned.

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Families of Lockerbie victims splintered over sanctions

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — To US Ambassador Bill Richardson, the UN debate was about jurisdiction. To Dan Cohen, it was about Theo.

Cohen, whose only daughter, Theodora, was among the 270 victims of the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, was at the UN Friday as the Security Council held a day-long debate on lifting sanctions against Libya.

"The Libyans have got a long rap sheet," Cohen, the author of 160 children's books, told a news conference before the debate started. "Blowing up innocent people is one of the things they do."

Along with other families armed with photos of the victims of the Lockerbie bombing, Cohen intended to ensure that sanctions against Libya remain in place until Tripoli surrenders the two Libyans indicted in the attack to the US or Britain.

Pan Am Flight 103 exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, on December 21, 1988, killing 270 people from 21 countries, including Israel. Theo Cohen, 20, was returning from a semester in London. Her body landed in a sheep meadow.

In the Security Council, Libyan Foreign Minister Omar Mustafa Muntasser said the sanctions were moot in light of last month's decision by the International Court of Justice on the Pan Am bombing, which triggered the sanctions in 1992. He also called the sanctions collective punishment "as a result of nothing more than a mere suspicion of two of [Libya's] citizens."

"We are the victims, not the Libyan people," said George Williams of Joppa, Maryland, the president of a group representing 180 of 189 American victims.



In the Security Council, Libyan Foreign Minister Omar Mustafa Muntasser called the sanctions collective punishment 'as a result of nothing more than a mere suspicion of two of [Libya's] citizens.'

The Libyan government made us victims and [Libyan leader Muammar] Gaddafi and his agents made the Libyan people victims.

"The Libyan people did not kill our

family members. The two indicted Libyans killed them, including our only child, my son, George," Williams said.

Over the objections of the US and Britain, the World Court in the Hague determined it has jurisdiction over the

cases brought by Washington and London against Libya.

Only two weeks ago, the council retained the sanctions. There was no resolution regarding sanctions on the table when the Security Council convened

Friday. Nonetheless, some 50 states lined up to speak at the debate, many of them calling for a lifting of the sanctions. Among the council members, Russia and China wanted sanctions lifted as soon as possible, while Bahrain, Gambia, Gabon and Kenya supported Libya's recent offer to have the two suspects face trial in a "neutral" location outside the US or Britain.

Libya's position was supported by Egypt. Nabil Elaraby, Cairo's ambassador to the UN, said that Libya had the right to hold the trial of the two suspects on its territory, and that sanctions should not be imposed against states "based only on mere suspicion."

Before the debate, the council observed a minute's silence in memory of the Pan Am victims as well as the 170 people who died in the 1989 bombing of a French UTA flight over Niger. Libyan agents also are alleged to be involved in that attack. The US and Britain said the Hague court's ruling was a technical matter that did not go into the substance of the case. They also said it had no effect on the existing UN sanctions.

While the world court's rulings are binding and without appeal, their enforcement may depend on the Security Council, where this ruling is opposed by the US and Britain.

Although American families were at the council debate, the families of the Lockerbie victims have been severely splintered over the best course of action. The British families association, led by Jim Swire, who lost his daughter Flora, is in favor of an international trial, while the majority of the American families want sanctions.

"Making this a court case is ridiculous," said Theo's mother, Susan Cohen of Cape May Courthouse, New Jersey. "This is not two people who did this; it is two countries that did this."

Susan Cohen, who believes that Syria also is involved, was the primary force in having Libya added to the 1996 American legislation that authorized sanctions against Iran for sponsoring terrorism.

Dan Cohen was angry that the Pan Am victims have gotten no formal support from national Jewish organizations. "This is not regarded as a Jewish issue," he said bitterly. "Terrorism is terrorism, whether it hits Jews or non-Jews."

Tripoli appealed to the Hague in March 1992, contending that it should be allowed to try the two men itself. The World Court said it has jurisdiction because Libya filed its complaint before the Security Council adopted its resolutions. The court also rejected American and British claims that the court's involvement undermined the Security Council. The council imposed a wide range of aerial, arms and diplomatic sanctions on Libya, but did not limit its exports of oil.

Richardson, the American UN envoy, said the World Court's ruling "in no way questions the legality of the Security Council's actions affecting Libya or the merits of the criminal cases against the two accused."

Seated by a graphic with the names of the 270 Pan Am victims and the flags of their 21 nations, including Israel, Richardson also challenged Tripoli's assertions that sanctions resulted in humanitarian hardship. Libya, he said, has one of the highest per-capita incomes in Africa.

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Hertz

'The Postman' doesn't ring at all

On the eve of Hollywood's biggest night, the Golden Raspberry Foundation picked Kevin Costner's box office bomb *The Postman* as the worst movie of 1997.

Costner also took the Razzie Award for worst director and actor in *The Postman* and the movie got the group's nod for worst screenplay. The film's entire song score got the worst song trophy.

Foundation president John Wilson said *The Postman* had the "dis-tink-tion" of being the first movie ever to take every Razzie Award for which it was nominated. But it wasn't alone in its sweep.

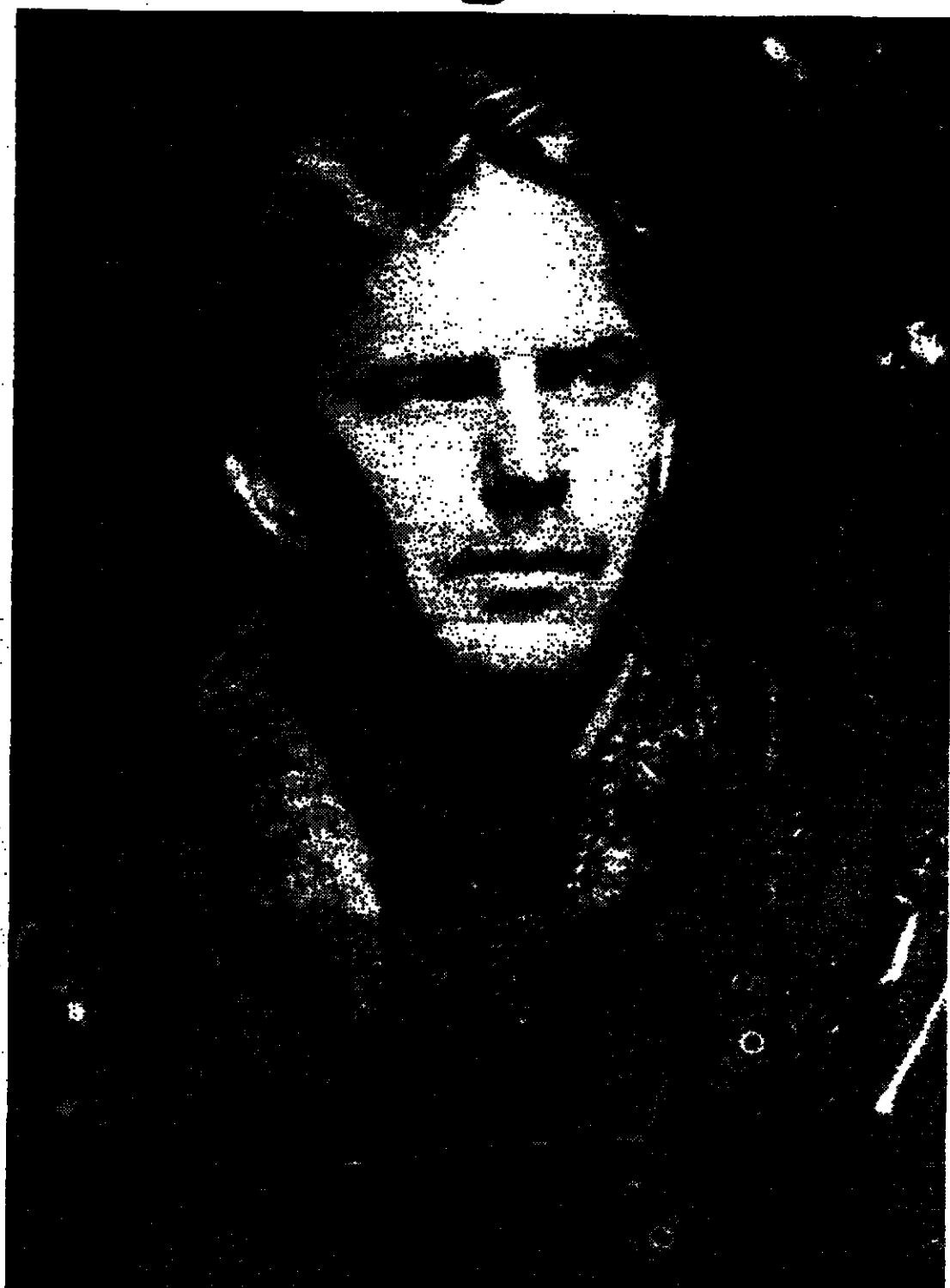
Also winning in every category it was nominated was *Double Team*, starring Muscles from Brussels actor Jean-Claude Van Damme and neon-haired basketball star Dennis Rodman. Three of the *Double Team* wins went to Rodman himself: worst supporting actor, worst screen couple (with Van Damme) and worst new star, despite stiff competition in that category from Tori Spelling and Howard Stern.

Winners for the 18th annual spoof of the Academy Awards were announced in an irreverent ceremony Sunday, the day before the Academy Awards, which took place late last night. Winners never show up to collect the gold-plated, golf-ball sized plastic raspberry atop a film canister. Wilson said it's worth about \$2.

Worst actress dis-honors went to Demi Moore for her portrayal of a shaven-headed Navy SEAL in *G.I. Jane* and worst supporting actress was Alicia Silverstone for her rubber-suited Batgirl role in *Batman and Robin*. The newest Razzie Award category — worst reckless disregard for human life and public property — was won by *Con Air*. Razzie winners were picked by 487 Foundation members, who are industry workers, journalists and moviegoers in 35 US states and eight foreign countries.

The voters even gave thumbs down to Hollywood's big-budget ocean liner disaster. No, not THAT shipboard disaster.

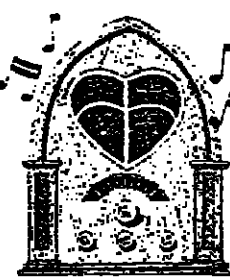
Speed 2: Cruise Control was deemed the worst remake or sequel for 1997. (AP)



Kevin Costner took the Razzie Award for worst director and worst actor in 'The Postman.'

Clapton falls asleep at the wheel

In Tune



By David Brinn

PILGRIM

Eric Clapton (Red Artzi)

CARMINE MEO

Emma Shapplin (NMC)

LET'S FACE IT

The Mighty Mighty

Bosstones (Import)



Eric Clapton enjoys the fruits of his middle-of-the-road success.

Eric Clapton stopped being a rock artist years ago in favor of a career as an all-around entertainer. While his concerts and live albums still catch fire occasionally with the spark of the Clapton of yore, his studio output has relied more and more on craftsmanship and finesse. From "Wonderful Tonight" to "Tears in Heaven," Clapton has evolved into a bearer of pop standards.

Pilgrim does little to change that trend and even drags Clapton further into the middle of the road. Predominantly slow tempo, acoustic and understated, the songs sound like Clapton's asleep at the wheel.

His lyrics still have that bluesman in pain quality, with tales of broken hearts, broken romances and going down slow. But the music, spurred on by some awful easy-listening drum programming, seems devoid of any emotion. It's become so much of a craft for him that he's lost the art part.

Clapton's greatest gift — his guitar playing — is woefully under-used throughout, with the rare solos lacking the elements of the musical language he helped create in his youth.

Things pick up on the bluesy "Sick and Tired" but quickly fall back into the Phil Collins/Joe Cocker ballad trap on the rest of the disc. Taken on its own, this could still be satisfying, but Clapton's knack for writing spare, poignant ballads also seems to have evaded him. Only "My Father's Eyes" and "River of Dreams" carry Clapton's trademark gripping melodies.

Since so many of his contemporaries are either dead (Jimi Hendrix), retired (Pete Townshend) or churning out pale imitations of themselves (The Rolling Stones), it's only fair to credit Clapton for both longevity and constantly reinventing himself. But, if he releases another album or two like *Pilgrim*, any one of the above three options may ultimately prove to be a wiser career move.

CALL IT New Age opera. The debut album by Emma Shapplin, *Carmine Meo*, is the unlikely hit in Europe and especially in

Lebanon! Produced by French star Jean-Pierre Caupdevielle, the album combines dreamy strings and orchestration with Shapplin's operatic-trained voice on nine songs sung in Italian. Not my cup of cappuccino. But if Pavarotti can duet with Bono, why can't Emma Shapplin become the first opera star since Causo to make the Top Ten?

FUN AND crazy from beginning to end, the debut of Boston's The Mighty Mighty Bosstones invokes a golden era of rock. In the early 1980s, Madness, The English Beat and a slew of others, assaulted the scene with multi-racial (two-tone), big bands that mixed the energy of punk with the bounce of ska.

The Bosstones do it faster, funnier and harder. The honking sax leads the way on a 12-song non-stop danceathon. A big hit last year in the US, *Let's Face It* is available at Tower Records and specialty shops. In a perfect world, it would be on the radio all the time.

Pedro Almodovar: Director on the verge of a breakthrough

By CYNTHIA L. WEBB

Director Pedro Almodovar is famous for making affectionately off-the-wall movies about transvestites, love triangles and naughty nuns.

The director's current thriller, *Live Flesh*, is less kitsch and more plot, signaling a change from his past 11 productions that might make it his most mainstream film to date.

Although he's one of Europe's finest filmmakers and an art-house favorite in the US, the Spanish director's biggest US success came a decade ago with *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown*. Since then, his US box office has been in a downward spiral.

Almodovar, 46, says *Live Flesh* is a departure from his typically comedic story lines and part of his evolution as a director. "I think it's something natural. Change comes partly from life, getting older and becoming more conscious of yourself and more conscious of your surroundings," Almodovar said during a recent interview. "I still want to change more and I not only want to grow. I want to continue to surprise myself and others," he said.

There are three things I need to experience to feel like a complete director: to make a movie in English, a theater play, and then an opera.

His 1988 film, *Women on the Verge*, a chaotic love and revenge story, made \$7.2 million in US ticket sales, making it one of the top 20 grossing foreign films in the last 20 years. His sexually charged *Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!* in 1990 made \$4.1 million, while *Flower of My Secret* in 1995 made only \$1 million, according to Entertainment Data Inc.

If not huge moneymakers by Hollywood standards, the movies did attract their share of attention. *Tie Me Up!* was given an NC-17 rating for its graphic sexual content, while *Law of Desire*, a 1986 film starring Antonio Banderas, drew criticism for portraying unprotected gay sex.

Based on the quirkiness of Almodovar's movies, some might assume they are a reflection of his personality. "This is so literal," he said. "I am not eccentric. I am very, very ordinary. I am afraid I am too normal."

Almodovar contends the stylistic changes in *Live Flesh* — like its

stronger narrative plot and more sensible characters — are not a conscious attempt to mainstream his work, but a progression.

"The most important thing in this movie are the emotions. Everybody experiences emotions. It doesn't matter what culture you are from or what language you speak," said Almodovar.

Live Flesh follows the life of Victor Plaza and his uncanny connection to two police officers, a cheating wife and a diplomat's daughter. Almodovar weaves in a complicated relationship twist involving the cop, his partner and his wife, and the impact which destiny and guilt have on them.

"I believe they are the most radical characters I have ever created. But I think everybody can relate to them," said the self-taught director, who first shot films with a super-8 camera.

"Everybody knows what it's like to be in love with somebody... and everybody knows about living with somebody that no longer loves you," Almodovar said. "The whole world understands the natural possessiveness of passion."

Bringing *Live Flesh* to America was a challenge, he says, requiring triple the amount of promotion it would need in Europe. The movie opened to good box office in France, Italy and Spain.

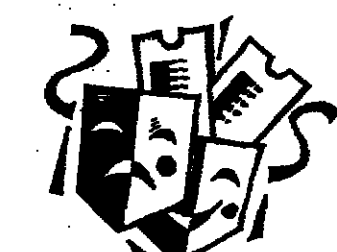
"The marketplace is very difficult, almost abusive," he said of the United States, where his film may only play on 50 screens across the country. "To show your films in the United States signifies prestige; it does not signify money."

In the past, the director said, he would not give in to Hollywood's demands to make a film there. "I refused because I wasn't ready yet. I was also a little scared because everything is so big that it frightened me," Almodovar said, laughing.

"I don't refuse the idea of making a movie in English — I just need to make it mine." This need for autonomy is quintessential Almodovar, says Banderas. He was discovered in Madrid by the director when he was a little-known theater actor. His first film was with Almodovar.

"He is a very courageous man. He doesn't have any kind of fear when he is behind the camera. There is no self-censorship," said Banderas, who has starred in five Almodovar films. (AP)

Theater Review



By Naomi Doudai

This, the first work for the stage by a young Israeli writer, original and gripping as it is, still owes much of its power to the manipulations and makeshifts of an imaginative and able director.

To start with, Weingarten exploits the dark shades and shuddering depths of Frieda Shoham's cellar set with its illusion of external menace to create the mood of the strange events that follow. Combined with Meir Alon's ghoul-like lighting, it produces a background of electrifying fear and suspense. Thus an otherwise loosely cobbled play is turned into a breathtaking drama and document of deep historic interest.

The cellar holds two rich Hungarian Jewish women who, together with a spoiled son, are hiding from the Nazis. The claustrophobic situation may initially recall Saddam, Scuds, and sealed rooms. But it becomes apparent that the threat is of an entirely different, far more abstruse, order.

From the very first, the existence of skeletons in the family closet is suggested. This becomes the major theme and slowly dominates the development. In what is an unexpected twist for Holocaust drama, the frank exposure of gruesome secrets concerning the origins of Sonia, a servant girl, becomes the main menace that threatens the tortured family.

Excelsing in two of the roles are Tatiana Kanelis-Olier and Alon

Aboutbul. As Paula, the former builds a formidable portrait of the practical sister whose shameful past is slowly allowed to emerge.

As Albert, her nephew, soon Sonia's lover, the latter transcends the decadent darling adored by the two older women to become the sole salubrious and moral figure of the three.

With the two remaining parts, however, direction shows less control. Lia Koenig as Lydia, the older sister, makes a sensational entrance, all dressed up for the opera in spangles and sparklers as she descends with full-length mirror to the cellar. She paints the egotistical vanity and superb soullessness of the spoiled rich most eloquently.

However, thereafter she is

allowed to swell her presentation to such hysterical proportions that the rest of the performers have difficulty competing.

Adva Adani in the title role of Sonia is overshadowed by her extravagant flamboyance and attention-stealing plays. For that and other reasons, Adani's undoubted talents as a tragedienne are not employed to best advantage here.

The inversion in roles, whereby she moves from naive, submissive slavery to raging virago who wields the whip, is effected without the subtlety and incrementing force the role demands.

The shadow of past malice more than the ever-present threat of the Nazis is what brings catastrophe upon a proud and decadent family.

The egotistical vanity of the rich and spoiled

Pianists play with more than their fingers

CONCERT ROUNDUP

By the time you read this review the names of the 20 pianists who have reached the second stage of the Ninth International Arthur Rubinstein Piano Master Competition will be known. But the work of the judges will not be easy because the

ARTUR RUBINSTEIN COMPETITION

Tel Aviv Museum

March 17-22

overall level of this year's competition leaves a lot to be desired. Of the 45 contestants, there are far too many pianists who simply sit at the keyboard and bang their way through the music. No growth, no interpretation, no human touch, nothing. Then there is a bunch of mediocre pianists I'm not sure I or anyone else would want to hear again.

Then there are the very good pianists and the excellent ones. Of those pianists whom I managed to hear in the first stage, two stood out: Margarita Shevchenko from Russia and Armen Babakhanian, an Armenian. The former delivered a very delicate noble chaconne by Handel and an intriguing rendition of Chopin's Third Sonata. This is a pianist who uses her intelligence as well as her fingers, a pianist who seems interested in the overall shape of each piece she plays — its structure and its essence.

Her technique is masterful, her virtuosity compelling but even more so is her musicianship. The only thing I did not enjoy was the choice of Carl Vine's Sonata as an opening work. This is a mundane, boring opus which served only to showcase the pianist's command of the keys. She did much better

with the classics.

Babakhanian delivered a captivating reading of Beethoven's Opus 27 No. 1 Sonata, a reading that looks at the work from a most revealing perspective. His performance of the rarely performed *Prelude, chorale et fugue* by Franck was very impressive. Here is another pianist who will no doubt finish among the top of this competition.

Others I would like to see progress to stage two are American Sean Botkin and German Oliver Kern. Kern played Brahms (the four Opus 10 Ballades) in a novel, graceful and refreshing manner. His Haydn was as revealing and perplexing. Botkin was courageous enough to play Bach (the Fifth English Suite) in an age when most Bach is performed on the harpsichord. His Mendelssohn and Bartok selections completed a recital by a pianist who definitely enjoys and is drawn into the music he performs, and with all its minute subtleties.

Round two starts this afternoon.

Michael Aizenstadt

AMOS ELKANA'S *Arabic Lessons* is a perplexing, beguiling 40-minute opus in which the composer challenges the so-

MOS ELKANA 'ARABIC LESSONS' PREMIERE

Enav Center

March 6

called "acceptable" form of the *lieder*, shattering it and building it anew, as if constructing a new world from its ashes. *Arabic Lessons* features 13 poems by Michael Roes which are performed by three female singers. One sings in Hebrew, one in German (the exceptional Ulrike Sontag) and the third in Arabic.

But they do not necessarily sing individually. More often than not — and this is when the work is really exciting — they sing in tandem. Not in an operatic-style trio but three individual expressions which crystal-

lize into a meaningful whole. When the singers perform individually, the intriguing part is the way Elkana combines the human voice with instruments like a drum set (the astonishing Oron Schwartz) or saxophone and bass guitar. Even more sensational is the way the more traditional flute (first-rate playing by Yossi Arheim), trumpet and cello intertwine with the bass guitar and percussion.

Aside from the unique instrumentation, this work reaches its apex when the singers sing together. Here we are confronted with a new musical language, philosophy and aesthetic, a so-called "lieder for the 21st century," a language that does not make it easy on the audience. A few days after the world premiere in Tel Aviv, *Arabic Lessons*, one of the most significant works composed in Israel for quite a while, premiered to great critical acclaim at the Berlin Festival.

Michael Aizenstadt

ISRAELI COMPOSER Gil Shohat's symphonic poem *O Ye Dry Bones*, premiered by the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra in its Subscription Concert No. 5, is firmly anchored in the Romantic tradition. It is, nevertheless, imaginative, with a distinct personal touch, avoiding commonplace conventions. The composer focuses successively on small instrumental ensembles, mostly winds, but also the harp and celesta, or a solo violin, for seductively ingratiating episodes, before finally permitting himself a forceful percus-

JSO

Works by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff,

Shohat

Mikhail Rudy — pianist

David Shalton — conductor

Jerusalem Theater

sive, somewhat boisterous conclusion.

Tashkent-born Mikhail Rudy, soloist in Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3, displayed captivating, minutely differentiated shades of dynamics before embarking on

sometimes glittering, sometimes powerful fireworks in the grand virtuosos manner. A combination of superb technical command and refined musical taste makes him a formidable pianist.

Conductor David Shalton considerably prevented the orchestra from overshadowing the pianist and achieved an animated, full-blooded and well-blended sound in Tchaikovsky's *Francesca de Rimini*.

Ury Eppstein

MISGAV LADACH HOSPITAL BENEFIT CONCERT

Mitsuko Shirai - mezzo-soprano

Works by Haydn and Respighi

Jerusalem Theater

March 14

Shirai's rare combination of uncommon vocal clarity with exquisite mellowness and softness, without any sharp edges or strain, served her admirably in a tastefully dramatic rendition of *Arianna*. The emotionally charged recitative and the melodiously shaped arias brought this largely forgotten work to life.

Respighi's subtle musical poetry in *Il tramonto* provided a striking contrast to Haydn's theatricality. Shirai's performance, as if transformed in this composition, was a masterpiece of lyric expressiveness.

Haydn's Fifth String Quartet sounded thoroughly well-rehearsed though somewhat cautious, and was played in fine musical taste by this *ad hoc* group which might profitably carry on as an established ensemble. (AP)

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Annan's agenda

Kofi Annan, the seventh secretary-general of the United Nations, is the first to have risen through the UN bureaucracy itself. As the ultimate international civil servant, Annan is a master at politely reflecting the needs of the countries he visits, without losing sight of the UN's peacemaking agenda.

In Baghdad, for example, Annan managed to ignore the fact that Saddam Hussein, perhaps more than any sitting world leader, has violated the principles of human rights and international law which the United Nations is supposed to represent. Annan found that, in his words, he could "do business" with Saddam Hussein. With brutal pragmatism, he succeeded in brokering a resumption of UN inspections and staying off a US-led military attack. In the process, however, he enhanced Saddam's personal legitimacy, making the efforts of those trying to indict Saddam as a war criminal that much more difficult.

In Beirut on Friday, Annan noted the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 425 and declared, "I hope that the day will soon come when Resolution 425 is fully implemented, in recognition of the territorial integrity, sovereignty, and political independence of Lebanon." This was no doubt music to the ears of the Lebanese – and a sour note for the Syrians, who have been caught flat-footed in their opposition to an Israeli withdrawal from their Arab neighbor. In Jordan, Annan was equally supportive, and in Damascus he reassured his hosts that no one would succeed in leaving Syria out of the peace process.

After meeting Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza, Annan pledged the UN's commitment to achieving "legitimate Palestinian rights." He called on all the parties to show flexibility, but cautioned against expectations that he would pull a solution out of his hat, as he did in the Iraq crisis. Regarding the Israeli-Palestinian track, he is wisely deferring to the US-mediated effort, rather than follow British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's model of making himself an unwanted guest.

In fact, the abrasiveness of Cook's mission has made Israelis appreciate the diplomacy of Annan's visit here, which begins today. Unlike Cook, Annan is playing by the book: starting

with lunch with President Ezer Weizman, then meeting with families of missing soldiers, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Tomorrow he is to visit Yad Vashem, attend a Knesset session, and meet with opposition leader Ehud Barak.

Annan's visit is expected to be more congenial than Cook's, not only in form, but in substance. Judging both from his statements so far and his choice of meetings, the visit will focus on the one issue where the UN role could be pivotal: implementing Resolution 425 in Lebanon.

Despite what Annan heard in Damascus, there is no doubting the seriousness of Israel's desire to leave Lebanon. Israel's only condition is part and parcel of Resolution 425, namely the restoration of effective Lebanese sovereignty over the area Israel leaves. There could hardly be a greater, or more unusual, confluence of UN objectives and Israeli policy – and Lebanese interests – than the issue of Lebanon.

The chasm between what Lebanon wants and what Syria is forcing upon it has never been greater. Syria no longer even bothers to hide that it opposes an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon – in effect sponsoring a guerrilla war against Israel at Lebanon's expense. As long as Israel was unwilling to accept international guarantees to help secure a withdrawal to the international border, the UN had no hope of changing the situation. But Israel's embrace of 425 has changed the situation, leaving a real opportunity for the UN to facilitate a breakthrough in one of the most intractable corners of the conflict.

Now the question is whether the UN will allow itself to be dissuaded by Syrian opposition to implementing a UN resolution that Syria claimed to support for the past 20 years. Diplomatically, Syria is in the untenable position of perpetuating Israeli occupation of an Arab country. By taking the Israeli initiative under its wing and transforming it into a UN proposal, the UN could give Lebanon the cover it needs, at least in this instance, to break out of the Syrian grip. If Annan and the UN really care about restoring the sovereignty of Lebanon, they will not be dissuaded by Syria's assertion of its "right" to hold Lebanon hostage.



ILLUSTRATION BY [unintelligible]

Welcome, Kofi Annan

YOSSI BEILIN

You are coming to a country filled with contradictions. Israel, one of the most soundly based democracies in the world, has been struggling for 50 years over the very fact of its existence, and is still compelled to take steps which other democracies don't need to take, such as emergency measures and administrative detention.

This country owes its first stage of existence to the United Nations, yet it still sees the UN as a hostile agent. When I was a child I was sure that Dag Hammarskjöld posed a direct threat to Israel. You are coming to a country that preserves human rights. Our courts judge without discrimination. Our press is free, and we see our country as a symbol of enlightenment despite our security problems.

Israel sees itself as a country that fights defensive wars and pursues peace, yet is not accepted by its neighbors. It lives without permanent borders and without a recognized capital.

Many in the world see Israel as a country which tramples on international law, establishes settlements contrary to the Geneva Convention, wages superfluous wars and opposes signing international treaties against the distribution of weapons of mass-destruction.

You are coming to a country which has people who are ready to sacrifice their lives for peace, and those who are ready to sacrifice their lives to prevent it. There are those who are convinced that the Oslo process is a historical conciliation process, self-evident between the two neighbors, and there are those who see in this process the naive of Israelis who want to believe that there is no difference between their own norms and the norms of their neighbors, who don't understand that if the Arabs get a finger they will demand the whole hand, and this hand is the obliteration of Israel from the face of this earth.

You are coming to a country in which there are those who believe that peace with Syria is necessary to ensure a comprehensive peace

in the Middle East, who are ready to forfeit the Golan Heights for the sake of it. They believe that in the 21st century there will be less significance to a mountain and more significance to the containment of Syrian missiles that are capable of reaching every part of Israel with great accuracy. On the other hand, there are those who believe that conceding the Golan Heights in

withdraw unilaterally.

YOU can contribute on all these issues, Mr. Secretary-General. Your success with the Iraqi government gives you prestige and proves that there is no substitute for the UN. Granted, the UN is an organization that is clumsy, heavy and antiquated. Granted, it reflects the world after World War II and not the 21st century. Granted, its decision-making process is very rigid and the cancellation of anachronistic decisions of 40 or 50 years ago is nearly impossible. But it is the only international organization whose political resolutions are accepted.

You have the opportunity to include Israel in the UN's various frameworks – more than it is included today – and it is in your hands to assist the various sides in the Middle East who want peace to reach their goals.

If your visit succeeds in showing the Israeli public that the UN under your leadership is not the UN which collapsed under Nasser's demands in 1967, if you offer your organization's best services to implement Resolution 425 without arousing Israelis' suspicions, and if you can assist in procuring a formula for the renewal of the talks between Israel and Syria, then you will prove that the UN is relevant to Israel and the region beyond its ability to draft security resolutions.

Israel of tomorrow will be – in my opinion – one of the most active countries in the UN, in its institutions, in its unique projects for aiding in times of crisis and disaster and in its forces to safeguard peace in the world. Israel of yesterday fears the UN – not without reason – and saw it as a framework in which there was an automatic majority ready to condemn it for both real and imagined infractions.

You come to the Israel of today, which has many questions about the UN. You are capable of answering these questions and allaying our fears.

The writer is a Labor MK.

The Israel of today still has many questions about the UN

exchange for peace will expose Israel to a grave danger on the Syrian side and that the Golan will be brought to its knees.

You are coming in the midst of the Israeli argument on the future of the security zone in southern Lebanon. There are those who believe that the Israeli hemorrhaging in this region should be stopped and that the UN Security Council Resolution 425 and the Grapes of Wrath understandings, and advanced technology on the international border to leave Lebanon, with the knowledge that the Lebanese army, in coordination with UNIFIL, will redeploy, without Syria interfering and without Syria backing anti-Israeli terror activities.

There are those who believe that accepting Resolution 425 – which calls for a unilateral Israeli withdrawal – is a sign of weakness which will be exploited by our enemies in southern Lebanon and elsewhere. They think that if we leave, Hizbullah will move southward and leave us in a less defensible position. They prefer to grant Assad a veto on our continued presence in south Lebanon, and to remain there, bleeding, for a long time, as long as we don't have to

Abnormal relations

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

In the extremely loaded chronicle of Israel's international relations, two recent events demonstrate the lingering abnormality of the status of the Jewish state in the world arena. The one concerns the document published on March 13 by the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews – "We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah," the second was last week's visit here by the British foreign secretary who was also wearing his European Union president's hat.

That relations between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people, and the Vatican and the State of Israel, have always been tortuous and abnormal, is a basic truism. It is also a fact that the Vatican, under Pope John Paul II, has gone a long way in recent years to try and change its official attitude towards the Jewish people and Israel, with which it has had diplomatic relations since 1994. The new document, dealing with the Church and the Holocaust, is another significant step in this direction.

However, after having translated the document into Hebrew, and thus becoming familiar with its every word and nuance, as a Jew and Israeli I do not truly feel relieved. The document minces words.

Nowhere does it say something like: "The Church did not do all it could to prevent or alleviate the Shoah." Nowhere does it say directly: "Since the early days of Christianity, the attitude of the Church towards the Jews contributed to the deep-seated antisemitism, which made the Shoah possible."

The document claims that the pope and the Church helped save hundreds of thousands of Jews. This figure is a gross exaggeration. But worse still, in listing other cases of genocide and massacres in modern history, the document includes the seemingly innocent sentence: "Nor can we forget the drama of the

The status of Israel in the world arena is far from normal

Middle East, the elements of which are well known" – a preposterous implication that Jews were not only the victims of genocide, but are currently perpetrators of something of a similar nature.

THE bad taste left by Robin Cook's visit is, of course, a different kettle of fish. The problem lies less in the views held by Cook and apparently supported by most European foreign ministries – problematic as they may be from Israel's point of view – than with the cocky self-righteousness of the man and his boorish conduct.

Cook's behavior reminded me of that of numerous young British socialists, whom I had the doubtful honor of accompanying on behalf of the Israel Labor Party in the course of the late '70s and early '80s. But unlike those young socialists, who represented nothing more than the British Labor Party young guard, Cook came to Israel as the representative of Britain and the European Union, and thus his conduct – including the hypocrisy of pretending that the incident at Har Homa had not been staged (if it was not staged, how come reporters were informed of it in advance?) – was totally out of place.

Cook also disregarded the important rule "don't just be right – be wise." If the European Union wants to play an intermediary role in the Middle East peace process, it must learn that you cannot be an intermediary when you constantly keep rubbing the wrong way one of the sides in the conflict. Furthermore, an intermediary cannot publicly take sides in the conflict it seeks to help resolve – a basic fact the European Community (now Union) has failed to observe ever since it started issuing statements on the Arab-Israeli conflict in the early 1970s, but which Norway's leaders well understood when they hosted the Oslo talks between Israel and the Palestinians back in 1993.

The only conclusion one can draw from the unpleasant episode, besides the fact that the British currently have a buffoon for foreign secretary (which as a long standing Anglophile I sincerely regret), is that in Europe's relations with Israel there remains an unpleasant and totally irrational strand – something that does not exist in its relations with most other states in the world, and cannot be shrugged off as the policy of Israel's current government.

The writer is a political scientist.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

COOK: A GOOD FRIEND OF ISRAEL

Sir. – I was surprised that Ambassador Shoval should write an article entitled "Cook's Unnecessary Tour" (March 23). I find it odd that he should argue that the visit of a foreign minister of a friendly Western country should be unnecessary. This is particularly curious in the case of Mr. Cook, given the courteous way in which Prime Minister Netanyahu was received in London last November; and again, two weeks ago, in his dual capacity as prime minister and foreign minister. It is all the more surprising that Ambassador Shoval should take this line about someone who is a good friend of Israel. Mr. Cook organized the Nazi Gold

Conference in London at the end of last year, to the acclaim of international Jewry. He was also among those who have taken a particularly robust stance in dealing with Iraq, a country that Mr. Netanyahu recently told the diplomatic corps posed an existential threat to Israel.

Mr. Cook came to Israel not only in his capacity as the British foreign secretary, but also in the role of EU presidency. His visit to Har Homa was endorsed by all 15 EU foreign ministers. He wished to go there to see a problem that has for the last year contributed to the dangerous stalemate in the peace process. This problem will not be resolved by

pretending it does not exist, nor by trying to prevent people from addressing it.

Ambassador Shoval says that the EU should not meddle in the peace process. It does not meddle in it; it is part of it. Since 1993, the European Union has contributed nearly \$2 billion to the Palestinians, far more than anyone else. This is not only a contribution to the well-being of the Palestinians, but also to the security of Israel.

DAVID MANNING,
HM Ambassador,
British Embassy,
Tel Aviv.

HISTORICAL REVISIONISM

Sir. – There I was, minding my own business when I saw yesterday's article by the historian, Bernard Wasserstein, "Feeding the Crocodiles."

Surely this former Brandeis historian would have something important to say. So I read his piece. What an astounding piece of...well, historical revisionism right before our very eyes.

Normally such trash would not be worthy of a response, but since the writer occupies an important place as a contemporary Jewish historian, his descent into the dark realm of Jewish self-hatred, contempt for Israel and rewriting history could not go unrefuted.

Wasserstein bemoans the impotence of protesters against British Foreign Secretary Cook's visit in the most vile and provocative language. Cook fails to visit the Holocaust memorial and, instead lays a wreath at the site of the Arab propagandists' poster child, the Deir Yassin "memorial."

This military skirmish where one-third of the Jewish attackers were killed or wounded was an early example of Arab use of human shields and attacking from the midst of civilians (usually forcibly kept so as to maximize "civilian" casualties).

Wasserstein denies the fact that we did not grovel in gratitude for Cook's strong and anti-Iraq position. He took that position not out of concern for Israel. At any rate, most Israelis did appreciate his stand on Iraq. His pandering to Arab intransigence is another sorry example of currying favor with the Arab world at Israel's expense. Britain's sorry record in this region is well known by the esteemed historian.

Wasserstein's contempt for the prime minister is...well, pathological.

He compares him to Idi Amin twice, saying that the prime minister is actually worse! Astonishing! Idi Amin, the mass murderer who

killed over 300,000 of his own people (some of whom he personally tortured and cannibalized). He compounds his distortions by talking about Israel's "unthinking racism," thus rendering useless the definition of true racism as practiced throughout the Arab world with its Jew-hatred, Holocaust denial and unceasing terrorism.

Not many of us know the historical fact of Arab control of Jerusalem where nearly every single Jewish holy site was destroyed in a systematic racist campaign to eradicate any trace of Jewishness from the city. This pathetic record is obfuscated by apologists like Wasserstein, who slowly and sadly sink to the depths of Jewish self-hatred and, sad to say, the slippery and semipermanent slope into historical revisionism.

GARY M. KATZ Ph.D.

Modi'in.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On March 24, 1933, The Palestine Post reported at length on the recent mass expulsion and persecution of Jews in Germany.

50 years ago: On March 24, 1948, The Palestine Post reported

that a three-ton truck which had been filled with explosives by Arabs coasted without a driver into the perimeter fence around the Yemin Moshe Quarter of Jerusalem and exploded. Fortunately no one was hurt, but three houses and the French

Consulate offices in the Dominican Monastery were severely damaged. Fourteen Arabs were reported killed in battles fought near Kfar Sava and Magdiel while the Hagana suffered no casualties.

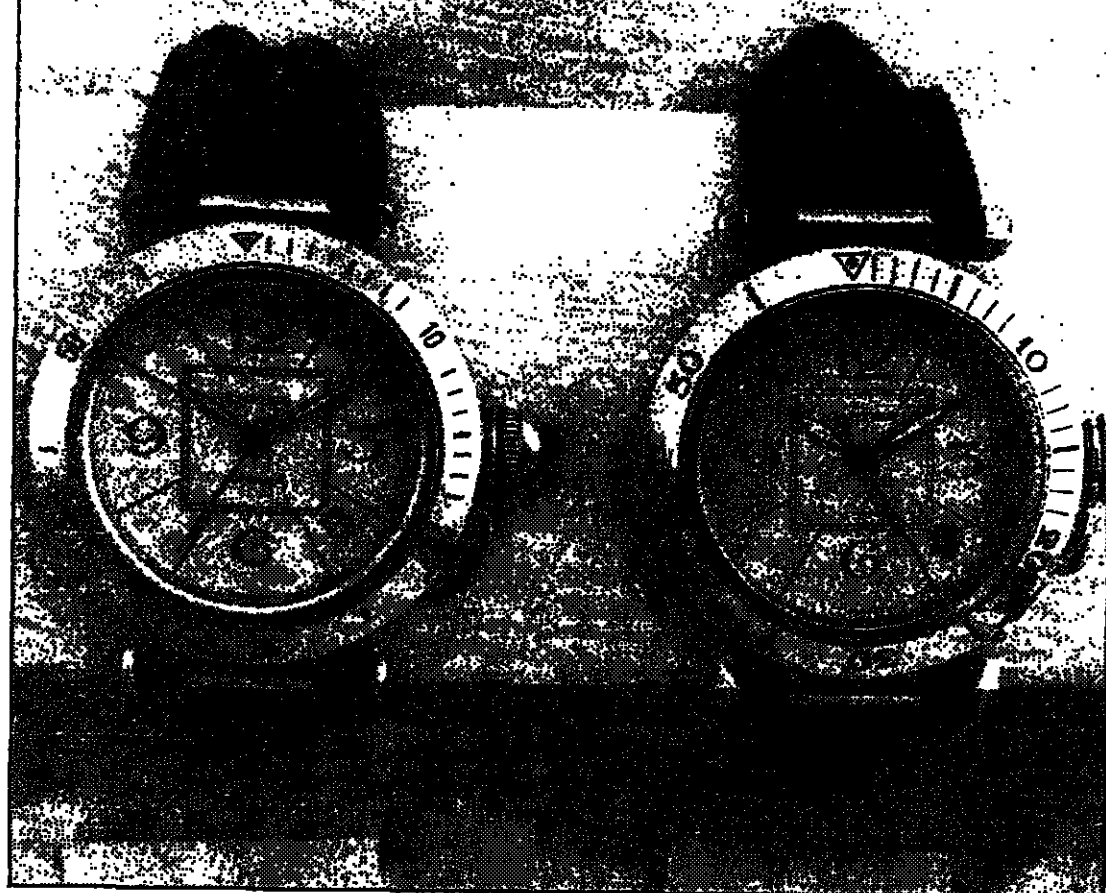
Alexander Zvielli

Dr. M. 130

Doing battle against the counterfeiters

Fakery is no laughing matter — counterfeits of luxury goods are now so sophisticated that designer watches come complete with false serial numbers and warranties. Allison Kaplan Sommer reports

Can you spot the fake?



Which watch is which? The timepiece on the left is the rip-off, the right the real McCoy.

Marc Frisanco, an attorney for the luxury-goods company Cartier, has seen counterfeit watches destroyed in nearly every way possible.

He's witnessed them being set on fire, buried in the ground by a bulldozer, flattened by sismometers and stomped on by angry human feet.

These very public scenes of destruction were not staged simply to get rid of the confiscated fake merchandise and guarantee that they would never be sold or used again. The fanfare and publicity was engineered to make a strong point: Cartier takes counterfeiting very seriously.

The company is currently involved in 2,500 legal proceedings worldwide, battling those who imitate their products or use their name, devoting \$3.8 million annually to its crusade. Yet with the huge amount of commerce in counterfeit goods and the potential profits for those who skirt the law, the company still views itself, in Frisanco's words, as "David fighting against Goliath."

We may giggle when we stroll the streets of New York and see obvious rip-offs of designer names (often badly misspelled) being hawked by vendors; but for the manufacturers of the luxury items being imitated, fakery is no laughing matter. In recent years, the business of counterfeiting has expanded beyond clothing, watches and handbags, penetrating the fields of music cassettes, videotapes, computer software, pharmaceuticals and machine parts.

"Counterfeiting is not a necessary evil or a shameful blight to be ignored. It is not the price of success," states Frisanco firmly. "It is a terrible disease that can threaten the very existence of a company."

FRISANCO, an attorney who handles legal matters for Cartier in Israel and is responsible for the company's fight against counterfeiting worldwide, spoke last week at Herzliya's Interdisciplinary Center. He had brought with him an elaborate display of imitation Cartier merchandise, showing how extensive the counterfeit business has become.

The items ranged from exact imitations of luxury items such as jewelry, watches and leather goods to items bordering on the absurd — socks, T-shirts and underwear, even a toothbrush bearing the prestigious name.

While Cartier does not manufacture toothbrushes or socks, the company still regards the unauthorized use of its name as theft.

It has filed lawsuits against real-estate companies, massage parlors and discotheques bearing the Cartier moniker. "This name has an economic value, and anyone who uses it knows he can sell the same product or service for a greater price," Frisanco explains.

A NEW and expanding area for the fight against counterfeiters is business computer software.

Tod Cohen, European legal counsel for the Business

Software Alliance, an organization that includes computer giants such as Microsoft, fights piracy and copyright infringement across Europe and the Middle East. He has visited Israel several times over the past year.

"As its economy has grown, Israel has become more of a target for software counterfeiters because there is money to be made — and therefore more opportunity to steal," Cohen says. He notes that software companies are unique in that they do not hesitate to pursue prosecution against end-users — i.e., companies that illegally copy or use counterfeit versions of other companies' products.

"If you buy a fake Rolex, the law may go after its manufacturer or retailer, but it will not go after you. We are the only ones who go after the companies that use the product — often respected ones."

"We must do so because they are creating and using stolen intellectual property and hurting the software companies; they put themselves at an unfair advantage regarding their competitors, who buy all their software legitimately."

"They are not just being unfair to my clients; they are being unfair to Israeli businesspeople who want to abide by the law."

The war against counterfeiting takes attorneys like Frisanco and Cohen around the world, to most of the estimated 60 countries in which counterfeit items are sold, comprising an estimated 4.6 percent of all world commerce.

Different types of counterfeiting, Frisanco explains, require different approaches. There is a vast difference between an exact reproduction of a Cartier design, made with fine materials sold by a wholesaler to a retailer who thinks it is the real thing, and an item picked up on the street that seller and buyer both know is counterfeit.

When a retailer is being fooled along with the customer, it is easier to win their cooperation in tracing the source of the fake and bringing the offender to justice.

CARTIER cracked a sophisticated operation last year in Japan, where high-end imitations of the popular Cartier Trinity ring — three interlocking rings in different shades of gold — were being sold in fine jewelry stores, most of whose proprietors had no idea the merchandise wasn't legitimate.

The rings were in Cartier packaging, bore serial numbers (false), and were sold with fake warranty cards. The company traced the source of the rings to a wholesaler in Hong Kong, and finally to a mother company in Germany.

By working with authorities in the various countries, Frisanco recounts with satisfaction, "the German company went bankrupt, the wholesalers in Singapore had their reputation destroyed, and the Japanese retailers surrendered the rings for destruction — and are now very wary of the merchandise they purchase."

But in some cases, a fight

against a counterfeiter turns into a long, drawn-out legal battle. The law isn't always on the side of the original manufacturers — particularly when a counterfeiter beats them to licensing their own name or manages to obtain a so-called "parallel license" in a particular country.

In Venezuela, the French clothing company Cacharel fell victim to its own distributor. He owned the license to the Cacharel name in his country, and when he began manufacturing fake Cacharel clothing and selling it in his store, the company had no legal recourse. The distributor was in a position of power that allowed him to strong-arm the company. It ended up being forced to pay him for the exclusive rights to its own name in Venezuela.

To avoid such situations Frisanco recommends that companies be as proactive as possible, protecting their product by registering its name and design in every key potential market and taking care not to ignore countries where they might not be doing business, but where counterfeiters might set up shop.

Cartier has trademarked 10,000 names, 3,000 of its designs, and 1,000 patents in 125 countries.

BUT many countries do not have sufficiently strict laws against counterfeiting — and often, even when laws exist, they aren't enforced because the authorities don't take the problem seriously enough.

Relative to many countries, the Israeli legal system is vigilant in fighting the war against counterfeiting, Frisanco said. The times his company took legal action to protect its trademark — against a nightclub named Cartier Club and a brand of ice cream called Cartier — it found the legal and law enforcement systems cooperative.

In Israel, however, courts still consider counterfeiting a "very mild form of crime," complains Yitzhak Cohen, director of the Israeli Association for the Protection of Cinematographic Work, which fights pirate videotapes.

"Legally we lag behind countries like the US, where the courts are much tougher on counterfeiters."

Cohen's organization, together with the Israeli Association of Composers and Publishers, is among the most active groups against counterfeiting, battling the vast numbers of counterfeit cassettes and videos sold in almost every open-air market in the country.

Cohen estimates that approximately 80% of all videotapes sold in Israel are pirated. The problem has worsened in recent years, he says, because the laboratories that create the ersatz videos are located largely within the Palestinian Authority and beyond the reach of Israeli law.

"A great deal of public education is needed here regarding the poor quality of counterfeit merchandise and the harm it does the economy," Cohen concludes.



Bulldozing the message home: (Above) A mound of fake Cartier watches gets crushed by a steamroller prior to disposal; (below) Counterfeit designer clothes become very 'hot items' — through burning.



Mixing business with pleasure (not!)

It must be a difficult time to be a man in the workplace. What with the complicated new world of sexual-harassment laws, together with witnessing the endless travails of US President Bill Clinton and his runaway zipper, it's got to be tough for men to figure out how to navigate the office.

Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer

They probably have to wonder constantly when a handshake is appropriate, whether a pat on the back or a hug should even be contemplated. If, heaven forbid, a man should occupy a narrow space with a female colleague and a part of his body should brush up against the wrong place, he'll be up all night worrying if his career is over.

And the worst situation must be if a man develops a genuine attraction to and affection for a woman he works with. It must be rather agonizing these days to decide whether to do something about it.

So I'm beginning to feel sorry for men – that is, as sorry as one can feel for a group that holds the vast majority of powerful positions in this country.

If I feel less sorry for women, it is not because we have it easier but because the new cautious atmosphere doesn't exactly represent a big change for us.

What working woman has not been on her guard in the workplace, always concerned about maintaining the line between friendliness and flirtation, worrying what behavior might be interpreted the wrong way? Any young, even vaguely desirable female who has worked with men can usually list a number of attempted romantic or sexual approaches from colleagues and recall the discomfort that ensued. Any reaction was potentially problematic and sometimes even disastrous.

If she was interested, she worried about office gossip and whether pursuing a relationship with someone she worked with, particularly a superior, could mean she was no longer taken seriously, or that a break-up could end a career. If she was not interested, she worried that the man in question might incorporate the rejection into his assessment of her job performance.

I don't think the tough new sexual harassment statutes really let anybody off the hook. True, they harshen the consequences of the actions for those who initiate romantic or sexual contact in the office (usually men). But the women – or men – who are the subject of such advances have an equally difficult responsibility.

The new law in Israel defines sexual harassment as any behavior with sexual connotations which is forced by one person on another against the latter's will. That means if the person being approached truly wants to be left alone, he or she must make it crystal clear that he/she does not

want this behavior to take place again.

I know from experience that this isn't always easy. I recall an incident that happened to me, before I joined The Jerusalem Post and entered the brave new world of working by modem (somehow I don't think sexual harassment would have the same impact over e-mail...).

One of my bosses, who was married, had a tendency to close the door in his office, sit on the couch much too close to me, and change the subject of a business conversation to his marital woes.

No, I didn't come out and state that it was inappropriate and that I would prefer he sit somewhere else and stick to business. I chickened out. I just made sure that I sat on a narrow chair when I met with him in his office and always found an excuse to keep the door open.

Another time, a powerful man I had business dealings with – also married – confessed to me, over what was supposed to be a business dinner, that he had certain inappropriate fantasies about me. I briskly changed the subject and it was never mentioned again.

In both cases, I preserved a cordial working relationship with them – they got the message and I forgave them. (Though I wouldn't lie in court for them. If Kenneth Starr called me to testify under oath as to their behavior, they would both be in trouble.)

Would my decision to avoid the touchy-feely boss and ignore the racy comments be interpreted in an Israeli court as sending a sufficient message that their advances were unwanted? I'm not sure.

The point is that this stuff is never going to be simple, and I welcome the fact that some guidelines have been laid down by law: it makes those in powerful positions (usually men) aware that there are consequences to inappropriate office behavior – something that women have known all along.

It would be easy to simply recommend that people keep their search for companionship outside the walls of the workplace. But that would be hypocritical as well as unrealistic.

Back in the days when I was a young, single working woman, I didn't always find those sparks of romance that were ignited at the office utterly undesirable. At a time when so many people spend so much of their lives devoted to their jobs, when work often draws us together with people we like and with whom we have a great deal in common, there is no way one can require that members of either sex check their hormones at the office door.

But, hopefully, the new laws will simply guarantee that in the workplace – and everywhere else – our natural urges will be tempered with a proper amount of common sense and respect for our fellow human beings.



Popcorn: Too many retailers still employ OldThink, when Eve-Ofution is the name of the selling game. (Los Angeles Times)

She's a trend guru

Faith Popcorn clues corporations in on what's happening and how they can cash in on it. Connie Koenenn reports

Recent Los Angeles headlines that drew a possible link between local tap water and miscarriages alarmed consumers, but were no surprise to Faith Popcorn. They only verified an emerging trend she's been tracking: AtmosFear.

"It's about people being scared of basic things that used to nurture them, like food, air and water," the trend forecaster explained. "You know, the chickens, the salmonella, the E. coli, the mad cow disease. Organic sales are soaring. But even that isn't safe, because people are confused about the standards."

Is anything safe? "When you start worrying about basic things like apple juice, a fast-food hamburger or a salad, it seems like every day there is something else. Nobody has put the whole package together."

Popcorn (nee Plotkin), a market consultant with an advertising background and a knack for prediction, specializes in putting things together. As chairwoman of BrainReserve, the consulting firm she founded in Manhattan almost 25 years ago, she commands hefty fees for business seminars and counsels such Fortune 500 clients as Bell Atlantic, IBM and PepsiCo on what's happening and what they should do about it. ("The Nostradamus of Marketing," declared Fortune magazine.)

Popcorn monitors the changing contemporary landscape with the vigilance of an air traffic controller at the radar screen. "We have a staff of 24 and a computer bank of 5,000 people in a wide range of occupations," she said. "We check hundreds of magazines, books and newspapers. We can't look at anything without analyzing it. It's disgusting!"

Popcorn was in Los Angeles recently with co-author Lys Margold to promote the paperback publication of their 1996 book Clicking, which pinpoints 16 major consumer trends with snappy names such as Clanning, Fantasy Adventure and Icon-Topping. In the Popcorn world, a trend is not a passing fad but a long-lived force inexorably shaping the future.

"We tell big companies to build their factories based on trends," she said. "We tell them, 'This is how it's going to go,' so they can gear up for it. (If you gear up in a way that takes advantage of the trend, you are 'clicking.')"

For the paperback, Popcorn added AtmosFear to the list. "It is so pervasive that canny marketers are already seizing on the opportunities it presents," she wrote, noting the appearance of elaborate home air purification systems, new antibacterial lotions and creams and germ-fighting toys.

Despite her colorful name (adopted years ago at the suggestion of an ad agency boss) and the purple streak in her spiky auburn hair, Popcorn's rapid-fire conversational style is more thoughtful than flamboyant. "We think that 'source-protected' food will be the next wave. We are advising our major clients to start disclosing ingredients on their packages."

Popcorn has had her eye on our food supply for some time, having touched on the subject in her first book, Popcorn Report, co-written with Margold in 1991. "We talked about finding where your food comes from, like wanting to know what field that cow was grazing in and what was the cow injected with. And everybody laughed," Margold recalled. But today, Popcorn said, such disclosures can give companies a competitive jump on the market.

She had just come from a business convention in San Francisco, where she shared the platform with a spokesman from Ben & Jerry's ice cream.

"When he said they only buy from a cooperative dairy that feeds no hormones to cows, 17,000 people cheered." Despite new labeling laws, Margold noted, there is no way for the supermarket shopper in a global age to tell where the red leaf lettuce came from. "Maybe from Mexico – where you just traveled, and were told not to eat the lettuce."

In the face of such uncertainty, retailers who can vouch that their produce is organic, or that their

T-shirts weren't stitched by child laborers, have pulled ahead of a system filled with mistrust.

The very pressure of such worries has led to another major Popcorn trend: Pleasure Revenge – the rebellion of breaking all the health rules laid out in Being Alive (yet another Popcorn trend) and reveling in such unhealthy joys as eating steak, drinking martinis and smoking cigars.

"I see the nation in a hedonistic moment," Popcorn said. "We're thinking, 'Oh – we can't trust the food source, the water, we can't trust the doctor... People say, 'Screw this, I'm having a steak!'"

Popcorn is unperturbed by the fact that many of her trends are contradictory. Can the Save Our Society trend, which finds consumers recycling and buying solar water heaters be reconciled with the Fantasy Adventure trend, with its booming sales of monster four-wheel-drive vehicles, even for urban commuting?

"I don't start these trends," was Popcorn's answer. "I just reflect them." Sometimes, she noted, the paradoxes merge, in a sort of yin and yang, such as running two miles, then coming home to eat a pint of Haagen-Dazs. "Fitness and fatness," she muses. "We are complex animals, and we don't behave in consistent ways."

Corporations have one basic question: What new products or services will people buy? Popcorn guides them to the FemaleThink trend, which, she said, is the most important in her book.

Too many companies still employ OldThink, which virtually ignores women.

"We say that in order to market to a woman you need to form an intelligent and respectful relationship with her, and very few companies know how to do that."

One of the few success stories she cites is Saturn, the car company whose no-haggle pricing policy typifies a sensitivity to female shoppers and has paid off. This FemaleThink trend is so compelling that Popcorn is going to rename it Eve-Ofution. (Los Angeles Times)

GRAPEVINE BY GREER FAY CASHMAN

Looking good

Things are looking up for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has made *Ma'ariv's* list of Israel's 100 most beautiful people. The list comprises 50 men and 50 women. The PM ranked 47th on the men's list, trailing somewhat behind Deputy Health Minister and Shas MK Shlomo Benizri, who placed 40th.

JOINING her famous father, Gideon Oberson in presenting a spectacular fashion show for Tel Aviv WIZO, budding young designer Karen Oberson proved for the third time that the apple has indeed not fallen far from the tree. While she has inherited Papa's panache, she has not yet developed his aplomb. When called out at the end of the show to strut with models along the runway at the Tel Aviv Hilton, Karen turned back after the first few steps, leaving the limelight to her dad.

CURRENTLY leading the field of television interviewers, Nissim Mishal is moving yet again from Channel 1 to Channel 2. Mishal first switched to Channel 2 when it was still in its experimental stages, where he conceived the Dan Shilon live interview show. Mishal expected to be named director-general of the Second Channel when it finally became a legal entity but lost out to Nahman Shai, prompting his return to Channel 1. A talented interviewer, Mishal soared to new heights as host of *Popolitika*, getting politicians to lose their cool and make controversial statements which they later regretted. Acutely conscious of Mishal's high ratings, Channel 2 has lured him back. The swing of the pendulum takes effect next month.

UNDETERRED by rainstorms, Israel's Irish were out in force last Tuesday night when Irish Ambassador Brendan Scannell and his wife, Margaret, hosted the annual St. Patrick's Day celebrations at their official residence in Herzliya Pituah. The ambassador's wife ruefully observed that the evening's downpours brought a feeling of home to Ireland's national day.

The main topic of the evening was not the weather but the political storm over British Foreign Minister Robin Cook and Israeli suggestions that he "go home and solve the Irish problem." There was no Irish gloating over Cook's discomfort, however – most Irish feel the British government is doing very well on the Northern Ireland peace process, and relations with Dublin have never been warmer. "Get him round here to join the party," said one guest when news arrived that Cook's dinner with the prime minister had been canceled.

The embassy reception was actually the second night of revelry for Irish patriots. At a party arranged by the Israel-Ireland Friendship Society on Monday, much the same crowd danced and sang the night away to the music of the Taverners folk group at the Herzliya Country Club.

PRESENT and former finance ministers, governors of the Bank of Israel, and senior executives of the Treasury, the Bank of Israel and other financial institutions congregated at the Eretz Yisrael Museum last week for the opening of an exhibition of the secret money printed 50 years ago for the state-in-the-making. Afterwards, they sat around and swapped stories about money. Former finance minister Shimon Peres recalled that as a young economics student, he had a conversation with Berl Katzenelson, founder of the now defunct newspaper *Davar*, who told him that no one in the country understood anything about money except Izhak Ben-Zvi. And his area of expertise, Katzenelson had clarified, "is strictly in the area of antique coins."

AT THE behest of The Jewish National Fund of America, celebrated Israeli chef Elisha Bakshi will join nine other internationally renowned chefs in honoring Adam D. Thany, designer, architect and restaurateur, with the 1998 Olive Tree Award Dinner on April 2 at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City. The grand culinary event will also be a gastronomic toast to Israel's jubilee. The chefs who will combine their talents to create a kosher gourmet feast include Francesco Antonucci of Remi, New York; David Burke of the Park Avenue Cafe, New York; Tom Colicchio of Gramercy Tavern, New York; John Doherty of the Waldorf-Astoria; Francois Kwaku-Dongo of Wolfgang Puck's Spago, Chicago; Michael Gior of Hudson Valley Foie Gras; Laurent Gras of Peacock Alley, New York; Gray Kunz of Lespinasse, New York; and Jean-Georges Vongerichten of Jean Georges, Vong and JoJo, New York.

Born in Transylvania, raised in Jerusalem and educated in Italy, Thany is considered one of the world's preeminent hospitality designers. His most celebrated designs include the King David



Netanyahu: in the top 50 (Isaac Harari)

Hotel in Jerusalem, the Dan Eilat Resort in Eilat, Le Cirque 2000 in New York and Las Vegas, Jean Georges in New York, Bice restaurants worldwide, Gundel in Budapest, and Spago restaurants in Las Vegas, Chicago, Mexico City and Palo Alto.

THE ANNUAL luncheon of the Israel Association of University Women was characterized by the IAUW's tradition of awarding scholarships to women scholars in diverse fields. Many of the recipients are in their 40s and 50s and have succeeded in combining academic excellence with professional activities and family life. But there were also younger women such as Chana Kehat who, despite the fact that she is the mother of five children under the age of 10, has found the time to engage in doctoral research on the ideology of modern yeshiva students, both heder and haredi, to determine their ability to deal with different viewpoints. Kehat, who has been engaged in various projects which foster dialogue between religious and secular sectors of society, was one of 18 women honored at the luncheon held at the Hebrew University.

GUESTS who congregated at the Katamon home of Jerusalem socialite and former top fashion model Nina van Welsi in honor of the bar mitzva of her son Benjamin Zeev Klinger had more fun than is the norm at such occasions. "It reminds me of the old days," Van Welsi remarked. "I had a good time and had her guests put them on and a good time was had by all."

NOW THE story can be told. Australian ambassador Ian Wilcock has revealed that Jan



Yossi Sliyas: offering a seder for lonely listeners

the threat of Gulf War II was at its height, the Australian government decided that its representatives in Israel needed more than army-issue gas masks, and sent full suits for embassy staffers. They also sent a couple of instructors who are experts on chemical warfare. The instructors had a mandate to teach Australian citizens living in Israel what to do in case of war. The embassy set up a series of meetings, and there was keen interest, which faded quickly once it became known that UN Secretary General Kofi Annan had succeeded in his mission. The meetings were canceled and the instructors returned to Australia.

SEPHARDI Chief Rabbi Elisha Bakshi Doron visits many institutions in the course of his duties, but when he dropped into Emunah Jerusalem's Gil-Ad club for senior citizens, it was more than just an official visit. His mother, Tova, is a member of the club. The chief rabbi did not come alone. In addition to his usual entourage, he was accompanied by his two brothers, Meir Bakshi, deputy dean of the Michlala in the Jerusalem neighborhood of Bayit Vegan, Avi Doron, a former journalist, and his sister Shira Doron, manager of the computer department of the Jewish National Fund.

CHAT-SHOW host Yossi Sliyas does a lot more than provide care and comfort in the wee small hours to those who call in to his radio show. He has invited listeners who have nowhere to go on Seder night to join his Pesach Seder. The problem is that he has there are many more lonely people who would like to join him – or anyone else who wants to offer them a place at the Seder table.

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Can't get no satisfaction

Dear Ruthie,

Having been somewhat promiscuous in my bachelor days – and loving every minute of it – I was relieved to find a woman I actually wanted to marry. She was (and still is) someone I could talk to, have fun with and share my thoughts and feelings with. In short, I found what I felt was my missing other half.

We have four wonderful children and continue to be the kind of couple I didn't think it was possible to be – the kind of couple most people I know aren't.

So, you ask, what could be the problem with my marriage, which is as close to ideal as possible?

The problem is that I am not fulfilled sexually. My wife, who is very warm in every other way, is not at all expressive or enthusiastic in bed. I have tried to talk to her about this, but she doesn't seem, or want, to know what I am talking about. She says, in fact, that the longer we are married, the better she becomes, and the more she is interested in sex. Unfortunately, I haven't noticed any change.

Maybe I sound childish, but the lack of fulfillment is seriously bothering me.

I have never had relations with other women during my entire married life. But now I have begun to toy with the idea. The last thing in the world I want to do is hurt my wife. But what can I do?

Faithful but Unfulfilled.

Somewhere in Israel

Dear Having Libidinous Longings,

If your only problem were the lack of excitement

in the marital bedroom, the solution would be at your

fingertips – both literally and figuratively. After all,

according to you, your wife is your best friend. Also

according to you, she claims to grow more interest-

ed in sex as the marriage progresses. Theoretically,

Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

then, all you'd have to do is talk these feelings out – then act them out – with her. And, since you are the one who is experiencing a lack of fulfillment, it is up to you to work on achieving a higher level of satisfaction.

However, though you list an impressive resume of your partner's positive attributes, you appear to be frustrated with her in some profound way. This may have to do with resenting having to take full responsibility for the quality of your joint sex life. Evidence of this lies in the way you describe her as not "seeming" – or wanting – to know what you are talking about.

when you broach the subject. Further evidence of this lies in your inability to discern an actual increase in her sexual appetites, in spite of her declarations.

Try examining whether this issue is placing a wedge in your mutual friendship. If so, it is more important to attempt resolving this larger question before tackling your sexual frustration.

Also consider that the main thing lacking in your life is not the quality of the sex but the absence of the conquest. Having spent your bachelorhood playing the proverbial field to your heart's content, you might be someone for whom the "chase" constitutes a great percentage of the titillation. This is no more unusual than discovering that marriage puts a damper on sexual tension.

Far more unusual is to feel satisfied with so many other aspects of a marriage. For this reason, you would do well to weigh carefully the positive and negative consequences of engaging in adultery. The former are few and fleeting; the latter are many and can be devastating.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For E-mail: ruthie@ipost.co.il ("Dear Ruthie" also appears in *The Jerusalem and City Lights* on Fridays.)

Jerusalem 150

13

Tuesday,
March 24, 1998

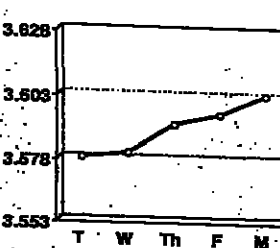
BUSINESS & FINANCE

13

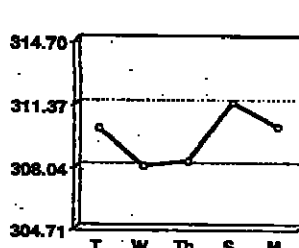
MARKETS

in brief

DOLLAR / SHEKEL

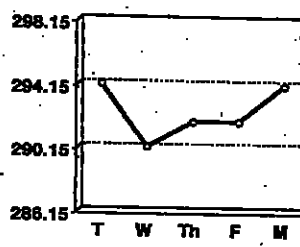


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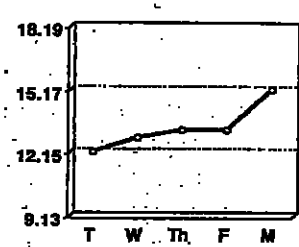
GOLD

\$ per ounce

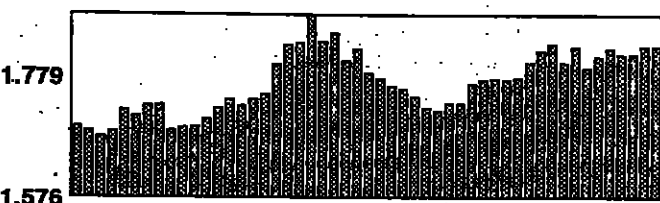


OIL

\$ per barrel of Brent crude



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



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Africa-Israel profits up 84%

Africa-Israel reported an 84 percent increase in net income in 1997 of NIS 68 million compared with NIS 37.7 million in 1996, despite the downturn in the real estate sector. Apartment sales rose 30%, and revenues were NIS 1.1 billion. Controlling shareholder Lev Leviev said that the company was considering entering other fields, including high-tech and chemicals. "We don't want to be just contractors," he said. The company also anticipates making large future profits from investments in eastern Europe, he said. A group of environmentalists burst into the press conference yesterday in Tel Aviv to protest the Trans-Israel Highway. Africa-Israel is a partner in the project. Security personnel removed the protesters. *Nina Gilbert*

Foreign tourist hotel stays down 21% in February

Tourism continued to drop in February amid tensions in the Gulf. Hotels logged 559,000 bed nights by foreign tourists, 21 percent less than in February last year, when hotel occupancy by tourists was already 37% lower than in the same month of 1996. The drop this year was especially great at the Dead Sea (30%), in Eilat, Tiberias and at kibbutz guest houses, which all showed a drop of 23%. However, hotel stays by Israelis rose by 30%. *Haim Shapiro*

Central bank cuts lending rate 0.4%

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The Bank of Israel yesterday announced that it will cut its key lending rate by 0.4 percentage points to 12.2%, following the recent decline in inflation.

The decision brings interest rates to the lowest level since July 1994 and is the third consecutive cut in the last three months, in which the base rate was lowered by a total of 1.2%.

The central bank said that the decision was made following the recent decline in inflation and

expectations for further decreases in the future.

The decision follows the news last week that the February consumer price index had dropped 0.1%, making inflation over the last 12 months only 5.6%.

The Bank of Israel said, however, that there is still need for a cautious monetary policy, to assure that a low rate of inflation is maintained.

The central bank noted that continued uncertainty in capital and financial markets abroad because of the Asian crisis is another fac-

tor requiring the bank to continue its prudent policy.

The bank, noted, however, that the conditions are more conducive to faster progress towards price stability with no need for further monetary restriction. The importance of curbing inflation rises as the Israeli market becomes more globally connected, the bank said in a statement.

Economists predict that the central bank will continue to lower rates in the coming months as inflation is expected to remain relatively low.

It already seems that the annual inflation figure for this year will be below the target set by the government of 7%-10%. Although the central bank generally acts in line with the government targets, it is widely believed the bank will try to achieve an inflation target of 5% to 6% for 1998, as it works towards the government-mandated 2001 target of some 4%, similar to that of other industrialized countries.

While welcoming the interest rate reduction, Manufacturers Association head Dan Propper said he hopes that the central bank

would continue its policy of reducing rates in the coming months.

He added that the central bank should decide on its interest rate policy two or three times a month instead of only once.

"Only by doing so can we reach a reasonable real interest rate level which will allow growth of the economy within 3-4 months," Propper said. "A reduction of 0.3%-0.5% once a month means that the recovery of the market would be postponed to the end of the year."



Trade with Turkey growing

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky (right) gestures to Turkish Minister of State Isin Celebi during their press conference in Istanbul yesterday. Celebi said that since the countries signed a bilateral free trade accord last year, bilateral trade has flourished and is expected to reach \$2 billion in the coming years. (Reuters)

Ministries exploring Atarot free-trade zone

By NINA GILBERT

The National Infrastructure Ministry and the Manufacturers Association are exploring the feasibility of establishing an Israel-Palestinian "free trade zone" northeast of Jerusalem near Atarot.

Joint ventures would be established in the zone to "help develop an atmosphere of cooperation with our closest neighbors," said Gideon Drimer, chairman of the association's Jerusalem branch, told reporters yesterday.

The proposal has not yet been discussed with the Palestinians. Drimer said Atarot's airport would attract business to the zone, which could be used to export to Jordan and the Arab world.

According to a survey among 35 factories in the city, 52% maintain regular business contacts with Arab counterparts, including

Palestinians, Jordanians, Egyptians, Moroccans and businessmen in the Gulf states.

Drimer also said there has been a marked growth in high-tech in Jerusalem, and a drop in the number of jobs in low-tech. However, the number of people employed in industry has stayed stable, and stands at about 21,000. This is about half the national average of 20% of urban workforce working in industry.

Given the shortage of skilled high-tech manpower in the capital, Drimer called on companies to train haredim, as they have proven they have an aptitude for the field.

Drimer called on the government to offer high-tech firms in Jerusalem more benefits and suggested that the government and Jerusalem Municipality establish a venture capital fund for high-tech in the capital.

Report: Business-sector slowdown behind unemployment rise

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Unemployment rose last year as a direct result of the decline in demand for workers in the business sector, attributed to a slowdown in economic activity, the Bank of Israel said yesterday.

While the number of workers in the public sector continued to rise at the same pace as in the past, the number of employees in the business sector rose by only 1.7 percent. The number of Israeli workers, however, rose by just 0.7% whereas the number of foreign and Palestinian workers surged 10%.

The report, which is part of the Bank of Israel's report on 1997, which will be presented to the government at the end of the month, said that the recruiting of more workers in the public sector has helped moderate the rise in the number of jobless. Unemployment rose in 1997 to 7.7%, from 6.7% a year earlier.

Despite the slowdown in economic activity, the average wage of workers in the business sector rose 3.4% in real terms, with employment costs increasing 3.9%. The central bank stated that the rises accelerated the unem-

ployment problem, though it was not a primary cause.

The rise in salaries in explained by the fact that wage agreements are usually signed for two years and in many cases such accords, which were ratified when growth was higher, are still valid. Many of these agreements were based on expectations for higher inflation.

Meanwhile, wages in the public sector declined 0.2% in real terms, after surging some 20% since the second half of 1993.

The decline in demand for workers was felt in most sectors, with the number of industry employees declining while the number of workers in the commerce and services sectors rose. The main rise in demand was for skilled workers in the banking, insurance and financial services industries. The sharpest rise in unemployment was in the traditional industrial sectors, mainly in textile and clothing.

The Bank of Israel said these developments are part of structural changes in the economy, which are expected to continue in the future. The unemployment rate among new immigrants rose last year to 10%, from 9% in 1996.

Oil producers agree to cut production

A group of the world's leading oil-producing countries agreed to cut output by 1.15 million barrels per day in an attempt to reverse a slump in oil prices, which recently reached a nine-year low.

The oil ministers of Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and Mexico, producers of 20 percent of the world's oil, pledged to cut a total of 600,000 barrels a day, or 0.8% of world supply.

Production could fall as much as 2 million barrels a day, or 2.7%, if others cooperate with their plan, they said.

Oil prices surged on the news of the output cuts. Benchmark Brent crude oil rose as much as 13% to \$15, a five-week high, in London.

In Singapore the crude contract closed up \$1.73, or 14% higher, at \$14.99 a barrel.

"All members of OPEC are expected to attend a meeting within the next week to confirm all the individual initiatives to cut production," said Wail Mudhaf, a spokesman at the Kuwaiti Oil Ministry. "It is simply a matter of finding a date that suits everybody."

Kuwait will cut its OPEC quota of 2.19 million barrels per day by 125,000 barrels, about 5%, effective April 1, said Mudhaf.

OPEC is due to hold a committee meeting on March 30, which could become a full-scale OPEC meeting, with the power to cut the group's ceiling, if all the 11-member group's oil ministers attend. So far, about seven members have agreed to attend, though Saudi Arabia hasn't indicated if it will.

"It all now depends on the implementation process of these new levels," said Jassem Saddoun, an oil analyst with Al-Shall, a Kuwait-based economic research center. "They would need to hold for at least two months to say it is a success, a breakthrough."

Prices have fallen as much as 29% since November, when OPEC raised its production quota and demand from Asia slowed. Oil fetched \$22 a barrel a year ago.

The oil slump has squeezed producers that rely heavily on oil revenue, such as those in the Persian Gulf and Latin America.

The Mexican government cut \$1.8 billion from its 1998 budget last month because of slumping oil revenue that accounts for 40% of its total income. (Bloomberg)

Sharansky threatens to pull price-labeling legislation

By NINA GILBERT

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky yesterday said he would withdraw legislation to amend price-labeling regulations if the Knesset Economics Committee does not vote on it as a whole.

"The results of the Israel Consumer Council survey show the public cares about price-labeling and their interests should be protected," Sharansky said in a statement.

In response, Knesset Economics Committee chairman Avi Yehzekel (Labor) called on Sharansky to refrain from issuing threats and

present the measure for a vote tomorrow, as planned. He said that while he supports the legislation, the committee is not a rubber stamp of the Industry and Trade Ministry.

Sharansky's measure would expand the price labeling requirement to include almost all packaged products.

Yehzekel plans to have the committee vote separately on each provision of the legislation, since some objections have been raised to requiring price-labeling of dairy and frozen food products.

Sharansky denied a report that a compromise had been reached to

exempt milk and frozen products from the requirement for a one-year trial period, while some supermarkets would experiment with a digital pricing system.

When the committee toured stores, shopkeepers complained about the increased costs of labeling and said that goods needing refrigeration would have to be left out too long to label them.

The council survey found that 93 percent of 508 consumers questioned believe it is important to put price labels on products, while 74% believe stores avoid using such labels to make more money.

Food chains have said the regulations would raise costs and some food manufacturers said they have been told by chains that they must absorb the expense of the labeling.

"Ilanot Discount" announces a reduced rate offering in the "Ilanot Ilan" Mutual Funds for Foreign Residents. Commencing April 5, 1998 and until April 28, 1998 (In accordance with the hours for submitting orders as specified in the prospectus) units shall be sold in the above mentioned fund at that day's unit price with an addition of a premium at the rate of only 0.25%.

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Tender 4/98
Supply of Conveyors for the X-ray Inspection Platform at the Customs Facility in Ashdod Port

- The Customs and VAT Authority invites bids for the planning, production and installation of conveyors for the X-ray inspection platform in the customs facility in Ashdod port.
- Bids (to be given in NIS) and purchase conditions must comply with the general and technical requirements, as detailed in the technical specifications.
- Bidders must also submit (as required by the quantities list):
 - An estimate for providing an annual repair and maintenance service for ten years, following the one-year warranty.
 - An estimate for dismantling the conveyors and re-assembling them in another shed in Ashdod port.
- Bids must be valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submitting the bids.
- The cost of the tender documents is NIS 200 (non-refundable), to be paid into Account 0-050055 at the Postal Bank. The details of the tender should be marked on the receipt and be attached to the bid. The tender documents are available at the Material Resources Department, Customs and VAT Authority, 6 Rehov David Hamelech, 3rd floor, Jerusalem, on presentation of the receipt.
- The following documents must be attached to the bid:
 - A bank guarantee for 10% of the amount of the bid, including VAT, guaranteeing the bid's implementation. The guarantee must be unconditional and should be made out to the Customs and VAT Authority of the Ministry of Finance. It should be valid for 120 days from the last date for submitting the bids.
 - A copy of the bidder's authorized trader's certificate for VAT purposes.
 - Confirmation issued by an income tax assessing officer or an accountant that the bidder keeps account books, as required by the Income Tax Ordinance.
 - All the documents listed in the general conditions of the tender and the attached technical specifications.
- Bids which do not include all the required documents will not be considered.
- A site tour for contractors will take place on March 30, 1998, at 11 a.m., meeting at Gate Hahet entrance to Ashdod Port.
- All bids must be submitted by April 6, 1998 at 12 noon.
- Bid should be placed in a sealed envelope and should be sent either by registered mail, together with the receipt, or be delivered in person, to the following address:
Room 598
Boc Tender 598
Room 214
Customs and VAT Department
P.O.B. 320
32 Rehov Agron
Jerusalem 91002
- The Customs and VAT Authority reserves the right to conduct a series of clarifications with every bidder, if it considers it necessary and at its sole discretion.
- The Customs and VAT Authority reserves the right to conduct negotiations with every bidder, if it considers it necessary and at its sole discretion.
- For further details and technical clarifications, contact Yoram Tibi, Divisional Manager, Tel. 03-613-0940, 052-837057.
- No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.

Tender 5/98
Installation of an X-ray Inspection Platform in the Customs Facility in Ashdod Port

- The Customs and VAT Authority invites bids for installing an X-ray inspection platform in the customs facility in Ashdod port.
- The bids (in NIS) and purchase conditions must comply with the general and technical requirements, as detailed in the technical specifications.
- The bid will be valid for a period of 120 days from the last date of submitting the bids.
- Bids must include the cost of providing an annual repair and maintenance service for ten years, following the one-year warranty, as detailed in the quantities list.
- The following documents must be attached to the bid:
 - Proof of registration for the last two years in the Contractors' Register, Classification 100 Gsm+1.
 - The bidder is a registered contractor, with proven experience of at least five years in carrying out work of the scope and classification of Para. 5a.
 - A bank guarantee for 10% of the amount of the bid, including VAT, guaranteeing the bid's implementation. The guarantee will be unconditional and should be made out to the Customs and VAT Authority of the Ministry of Finance. It should be valid for 120 days from the last date for submitting the bids.
 - A copy of the bidder's authorized trader's certificate for VAT purposes.
 - Confirmation issued by an income tax assessing officer or an auditor that the bidder keeps account books, as required by the Income Tax Ordinance.
 - The bidder must attach all the documents required in the general conditions to demonstrate that he meets the tender pre-conditions and technical specifications.
 - The tender documents can be purchased for NIS 200 (non-refundable), paid into Account 0-050055 at the Postal Bank. The details of the tender should be marked on the receipt and be attached to the bid.
 - The tender documents are available at the Material Resources Department, Customs and VAT Authority, 6 Rehov David Hamelech, 3rd floor, Jerusalem, on presentation of the receipt.
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 - The Customs and VAT Authority reserves the right to conduct negotiations with each bidder, if considered necessary and at its sole discretion.
 - For further details and technical clarifications, contact Mr. Yoram Tibi, Divisional Manager, Tel. 03-613-0940, 052-837057.
 - No undertaking is given to accept the lowest or any bid.
 - The Customs and VAT Authority may order only part of the work from a bidder, at its sole discretion, and bidders will not be eligible for compensation from the management for exercising its right.
 - If the management decides to order only part of the work, the agreement signed with the successful bidder will be for work ordered only, and the actual part of the work that was ordered from the contractor will serve as a basis for the provisions of the agreement regarding cessation of the work and/or changes, and/or any other provision in the agreement, without the contractor being eligible to receive compensation from the management or to change the prices for any part of his bid.
 - This right of the management relates to each of the components of the specifications and list of quantities and not the sections that are specifically mentioned. If the management exercises this right, the agreement will be signed with the successful bidder on the basis of his bid less the cost of the items in the list of quantities that were cancelled.

By Nina Gilbert

The company has also recently bought 45 plots in Kadima, near

■ In Herzliya, a five-room apartment with a roof on Rehov Hasharon was sold for \$225,000 by Century 21. The asking price was \$240,000. The apartment is on the third floor without an elevator and has two parking spots. In Rosh Ha'ayin's Naveh Afek neighborhood, a six-room cottage on Rehov Revivim was sold for \$305,000 by RE/MAX recently. The house has 160 sq.m. and an 80-sq.m. garden.

At the end of the last fiscal year, on March 31, 1997, the Nikkei closed at 18,000.40. The Japanese government sure has its work cut out if it is shooting for that level in the next two weeks. There have been repeated rumblings from Japan that the government will

Never fear. Another fiscal stimulus package is on the way! While none of the massive infusions in the 1990s has had any lasting effect on the Japanese economy, that won't prevent another attempt at pump-priming. Or is the real attempt to pump up the markets?

The statistics call into question the conventional wisdom that the yen strengthens in March as Japanese institutions repatriate funds for year-end. If historically

One has to wonder whether Japanese government policy is directed at fixing the economy or merely at improving the markets, giving the appearance that the economy is OK. What is the pur-

The Japanese government can talk Big Bang, reform and deregulation, but when push comes to shove — if the Nikkei and yen are still languishing — as March 31 approaches — look for officials to resort to their old tricks of talking up the yen and pumping up the Nikkei with public funds. At least this time you'll be able to appreciate it for what it is. (Bloomberg)

29.3 In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the Rubin Academy of Music and Dance is holding an international symposium for music teachers. Academics from England, Poland, Germany, the Czech Republic and the United States will join their Israeli colleagues in discussing "Teaching composition at the end of the 20th century"; "Technology and music and the influence of technology on creativity"; and "Tradition vs. innovation in teaching." Conference sessions will be held in Hall 221 of the Academy's complex on the Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University.

Agassi, Hingis advance at Lipton

KEY BISCAINE (Reuters) — Andre Agassi has played some spectacular tennis this year and won two tournaments, but he is still looking for a breakthrough. The 31st-ranked Agassi scored a

Late scores
Third round: Wayne Ferreira (South Africa) beat 1-Pete Sampras 6-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-3 and Tim Henman (Britain) beat 16-Carlos Moya (Spain) 6-1, 6-4. In fourth round action, 1-Martina Hingis (Switzerland) beat 13-Sandrine Testud (France) 6-3, 5-7, 6-2 and 3-Jana Novotna (Czech Republic) beat 14-Anke Huber (Germany) 6-2, 6-2.

6-4, 7-5 third-round victory over fellow American Vincent Spadea Sunday at the Lipton Championships — a title that would give him a tremendous boost.

It only took World No. 1 Martina Hingis, the Lipton defending champion, an astonishing 35 minutes to whip 23rd-ranked Joanne Kruger of South Africa 6-0, 6-0 in their third round encounter.

Kruger committed 35 unforced errors to Hingis's 15.

Hingis won 51 of the 72 points played — 25 of the 33 points played in the first set and 26 of the 39 points played in the second set.

Prior to the Lipton, Hingis successfully defended her Australian Open title in January and won last week's Evert Cup tournament at Indian Wells.

"I am pretty confident right now after winning Indian Wells," Hingis said. "I just feel great now. It is great being out there, and



STRAIGHT-SET WINNER — Venus Williams advances to the fourth round at the Lipton Championships with 6-4, 6-3 win over 55th-ranked Olga Barabanshikova. (Reuters)

knowing that if you really want to, at the important points, you go out there and you make them."

In another third-round women's

match, second-seeded Lindsay Davenport of the US struggled to a 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 win over 47th-ranked Fang Li of China.

Both Williams sisters were successful in third-round outings.

The 12th-seeded Venus Williams quickly dispatched of 55th-ranked Olga Barabanshikova of Belarus 6-4, 6-3 and 40th-ranked Serena Williams captured a 6-3 6-2 win over 26th-ranked Barbara Paulus of Austria.

In a third-round men's match, third-seeded Marcelo Rios, fresh from a tournament victory at the Champions Cup last week, won a convincing 6-4, 6-3 victory over 34th-ranked Tommy Haas of Germany.

The World No. 1 in 1995, Agassi was in a serious slump all of last year. But this year he is off to a 21-3 start and has won 15 of 16 matches in the US.

His only loss on American soil in 1998 was to upstart Jan-Michael Gambill in the quarter-finals at last week's Champions Cup.

Agassi faced the 64th-ranked Spadea, who posted the major upset of the men's tournament at the Lipton Friday night by taking out fourth-seeded and US Open champion Patrick Rafter.

Although Spadea, who has lost to Agassi all three times they have played, held his own in many respects against Agassi, he wasn't able to make it two big wins in a row.

Agassi was not playing at his peak, but he was able to work his way through the match.

"The idea is to win matches when you are not playing great tennis."

Spadea's serve let him down as he converted only on 42 percent of his first serves.

Panel calls for council to oversee local sport

By ORN LEWIS

A sports council, doubling of funding for sport (from NIS 150m to 300m), the establishment of betting on horse races and an increase in infrastructure and trained coaches and personnel are the main findings of a committee charged with making recommendations for facilitating the improvement of Israeli athletes' performances.

The Levin Report, published yesterday, and headed by retired Supreme Court justice, Dov Levin, was charged by the Education Ministry to deliver findings for the establishment of a singular body which would oversee the running of sport in Israel. Levin and his panel returned a 68-page report which proposes the setting up of a national sports council to be headed by a "prominent apolitical figure" who is familiar with all aspects of Israeli sport. The head of such a council would be appointed by the education minister and his deputy. The council's deputy chief would be a member of the Olympic

Committee of Israel and the body would comprise 41 members.

The committee also found a shortage of some 2,000 gymnasia, and too few coaches, teachers and technical experts. "We must strive to place sport at a much higher level of importance (in Israeli society and government)," Levin said yesterday. "By placing sports (administration) at the disposal of a statutory body made up mainly by people closely involved in sport and with professional, cultural and commercial experience, we can bring a change to the performance of Israeli sportspeople in the foreseeable future," he said.

Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled said, "I intend to start implementing the report's findings very shortly. I will convene the council's first meeting within two or three months even if the Knesset has not passed legislation to give the body statutory status by then."

The report recommends that some of the funding for local sport come from revenue created by betting on horse racing, a suggestion which has been made several

times in the past, but which has never been implemented.

The Tel Aviv press conference to announce the findings was snubbed by the OCI, who failed to send a representative to the announcement. OCI chairman Zvi Warshawiak told Israel Radio last night he felt that the OCI was being pushed aside. "We were invited (to come to the press conference) from one day to the next, this is not a serious way of doing business, I don't know, but it looks like more than a 'misunderstanding,'" Warshawiak said.

Warshawiak also expressed anger at the way in which a head for the council would be a ministerial appointment. "It is unheard of that the head of such a body should be appointed by the government. Sport and politics must not be allowed to mix," Warshawiak said.

Levin concluded by imploring that the report not be overlooked: "Our most important recommendation is to the minister (of education). He should execute the findings of our report, because it says important things."

Els cruises, Woods fizzles

ORLANDO (Reuters) — An expected showdown between the world's two top-ranked players fizzled as Ernie Els cruised to a comfortable four-stroke victory at the \$2 million Bay Hill Invitational Sunday.

Against the best field in the world so far this year, Els jumped to the front with a third-round 65 in the morning, then carded a one-over-par 73 in the afternoon on the Bay Hill course.

But it was the way the South African, who came into the tournament ranked second in the world, dusted off arch-rival and World No. 1 Tiger Woods that was most impressive.

Playing the final two rounds with Woods and Davis Love, who shared the halfway lead two strokes ahead of Els, the US Open champion put on a putting clinic in the third round, then protected his lead in the final round.

He finished at 14-under 274,

four strokes ahead of fellow Americans Jeff Maggert (68) and Bob Estes (71).

Els became the first non-American to win the tournament, and collected \$360,000 for his sixth

PGA Tour victory and second win worldwide this year, the other coming at the South African Open.

Woods shot a closing 77 to tie for 13th at four-under 284, one stroke better than Love (76).

Digging your own grave

ORLANDO (AP) — John Daly had the highest single-hole score of his turbulent career during the final round at the Bay Hill Invitational Sunday.

Daly, winner of two major championships, had 18 strokes at the par-five sixth hole on the course after hitting six balls into the lake which hugs the left side of the hole.

After his drive found water, he walked about 30 yards forward to where he could legally take a penalty drop.

Taking out his three-wood, he failed to clear the 270-yard carry with his next five balls. Finally, with his 13th shot (after six hits and six penalties), he cleared the water. His ball stopped in a soggy hazard, from where he hacked his 14th shot back to the fairway.

His 15th, with a six-iron, hit rocks next to the green and bounced into a bunker, from where he blasted onto the green and two-punted.

"The way I look at it, it's progress before perfection," he said.

Sir John could save the day for Newcastle

LONDON (Reuters) — Sir John Hall, who bankrolled Newcastle United's expansion into English soccer's big time, could return to rescue the club from a spiraling scandal.

Hall, 65 on Sunday, had agreed to make a comeback following allegations of sleaze against club chairman Freddy Shepherd and Hall's son Doug Hall, the deputy chairman, Newcastle newspapers reported yesterday.

The *Evening Chronicle* said: "He is returning as savior to rescue his beloved Newcastle."

The Newcastle board met yesterday ahead of the publication today of the listed club's interim financial results.

An independent director said the crisis would be tackled in the next two days: "I can say that

the situation will be resolved in the next 48 hours. I have the image of Newcastle United to protect," said Newcastle United Plc chairman Sir Terence Harrison.

Outrageous comments about sport, women and various British personalities have led to loud calls for the two men to resign from their high-profile positions.

In comments made in a Spanish nightclub to a newspaper reporter the two men believed was a businessman — and who taped their conversations — Shepherd and Hall insulted women from Newcastle, calling them "dogs" and abused soccer players.

The two sought to prevent the *News of the World* from publishing fresh allegations on

Sunday, but a judge rejected their appeal.

"If they were in and out of brothels in all the places mentioned, can they expect behavior of that scale or of that type to remain in confidence," Mr Justice Lindsay said.

The two have since apologized for causing offense.

Sir John Hall is remembered fondly at Newcastle United for pouring large amounts of money into the club and overseeing its development into one of the top teams in England. He retired last year.

British sports minister Tony Banks joined the campaign to force the two men out of the club, demanding yesterday "they should go...and now."

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NISSAN ALTIMA, 1994, first hand, 40,

Jazz deal Knicks double overtime defeat

NEW YORK (AP) — The Utah Jazz gained their 50th victory of the season, tying them with Seattle for the best record in the Western Conference, by outlasting the New York Knicks 124-119 in double overtime.

Karl Malone had 30 points and 14 rebounds, Adam Keefe scored a season-high 25 points, John Stockton had 22 points and 14 assists and Jeff Hornacek scored 16. The Jazz have won 13 of their last 14 games.

John Starks scored 26 and Allan Houston had 25 for the Knicks, who blew several chances to come away with a crucial victory Sunday in their quest to make the playoffs.

New York blew an early 17-point lead and a seven-point lead late in regulation. Houston missed what could have been a winning free throw with 1.5 seconds remaining in the fourth, and Starks missed a finger roll at the buzzer in the first overtime.

Pistons 105, Hawks 98
Joe Dumars scored nine of his 16 points during a key fourth-quarter stretch to lead Detroit to a home victory.

Grant Hill led the Pistons with 24 points and 11 assists, and Brian Williams added 23 points. Don Reid had four blocks, including two on Dikembe Mutombo dunk attempts, for Detroit.

Heat 112, Trail Blazers 80
Mark Strickland scored a career-high 23 points off the bench on 11-of-14 shooting, including a couple of highlight-reel dunks, as host Miami won in a rout.

Four of Miami's starters reached double figures, led by Alonzo Mourning's 22 points. Tim Hardaway had 20 points and 13 assists, one off his season-high. Voshon Lenard added 15 points and Dan Majerle had 13.

The victory was the fourth in a row and the 21st in 25 games for the Heat, who swept the season series from Portland for the first time in franchise history.

Bulls 102, Raptors 100
Michael Jordan hit a short jumper with 5.4 seconds left in regulation to give Chicago an away victory.

Jordan, who finished with 33 points, drove past Marcus Camby at the top of the key before pulling up for the game-winning shot after the Bulls had led a 12-point lead, with six minutes left to play.

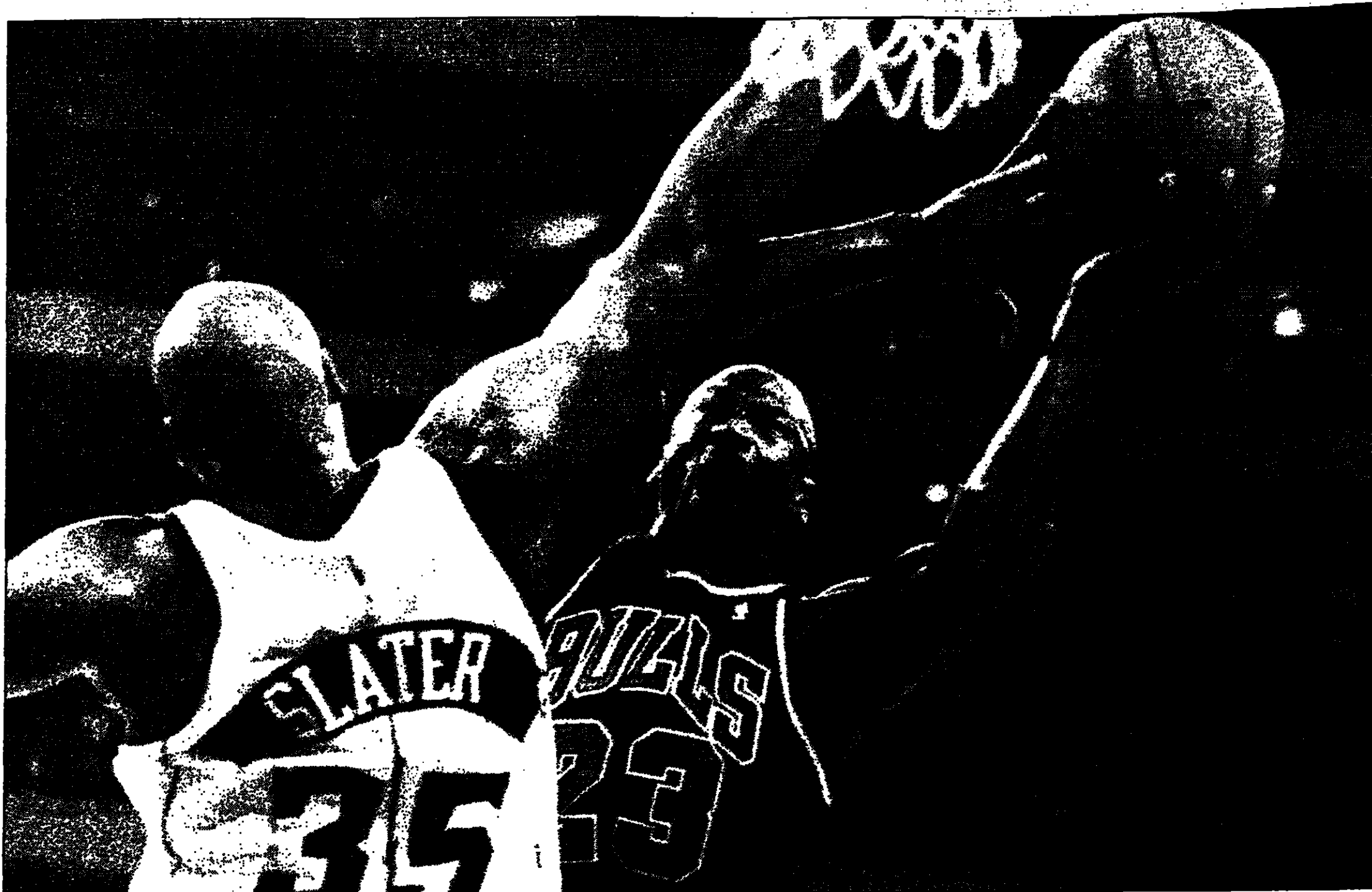
The Raptors, who were out of timeouts, got the ball to Chastity Billups, who heaved a desperation 3-pointer from near halfcourt that missed the rim by several feet and bounced out of bounds with one second left.

Scottie Pippen also had 33 points and Dennis Rodman grabbed 18 rebounds for the Bulls (51-17), who moved a half-game ahead of Seattle and Utah in the battle for the best record leaguewide.

Celtics 108, 76ers 90
Dana Barros outplayed Allen Iverson, scoring 27 points, dishing out nine assists and grabbing nine rebounds to lead Boston to a home win.

Antoine Walker added 25 points and 10 rebounds for Boston, which snapped a season-high six-game losing streak. Ron Mercer had 24 points.

Theo Ratliff paced the 76ers with 27 points and Iverson finished with 21 points and three assists.



BULL'S-EYE—Bulls' Michael Jordan goes up for two as Raptors' Reggie Slater defends. Chicago beat Toronto 102-100.

Magic 92, Warriors 83
Bo Outlaw had 22 points and seven rebounds and Derek Strong added 18 points and 12 rebounds off the bench as Orlando, despite playing without Nick Anderson, notched a home win.

It was the third victory in four games for Orlando, which is locked in a three-team race with New Jersey and Washington for the Eastern Conference's final playoff spot. The Magic and Wizards are currently tied for the spot, a half-game ahead of the Nets.

Pacers 96, Bucks 94 (OT)
Reggie Miller scored 32 points and Rik Smits converted a key three-point play in overtime as visiting Indiana defeated reeling Milwaukee.

Ray Allen led Milwaukee with 25 points and Michael Curry added a career-high 21, but the Bucks lost their ninth straight and their 12th in their last 13.

Mark Jackson scored 15 points and Smits had 15 points and seven rebounds as Indiana maintained its hold on the second-best record in the Eastern Conference.

Wizards 102, Nets 100 (OT)
Chris Webber converted a go-ahead three-point play with 27.6

seconds left in overtime, then gave the host Nets the choke sign as he walked off the court.

The victory not only moved the Wizards (35-33) ahead of New Jersey (35-34) and into a playoff position, but Washington also captured the season series 3-1, giving it the advantage if the teams finish the season tied.

Jersey (35-34) and into a playoff position, but Washington also captured the season series 3-1, giving it the advantage if the teams finish the season tied.

Spurs 93, Suns 83
Tim Duncan had 26 points and 21 rebounds, leading San Antonio to a home victory.

David Robinson added 17 points and 16 rebounds for San Antonio, which had lost its previous three games to Phoenix this season.

Rex Chapman scored 30 points for the Suns.

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Curry 9-10 5-8 21; Gelfand 5-9 6-8 16; Johnson 4-8 4-8 12; Allen 9-26 6-6 25; Perry 5-9 1-11 11; Green 0-0 0-0 0; Henson 2-6 0-5 10; Pierce 1-2 0-2 2; Lang 0-2 0-0 0; Field 0-1 2-2 2; Totals 32-80 27-33 94.

FOULS: out—None. Rebounds—Indiana 47 (Smits, A. Davis 7), Milwaukee 37 (Johnson 18). Assists—Indiana 21 (Johnson 7), Milwaukee 20 (Perry 6). Technicals—Indiana illegal defense 2. A-13, 17.

L.A. Lakers (59) — Fox 2-6 0-0 4; Horry 4-7 1-3 8; O'Neal 12-24 7-11 33; Jones 2-7 0-0 5; Fisher 2-6 0-0 5; Van-Exel 5-13 5-7 19; Bryant 9-12 12 22; Campbell 3-7 0-0 6; Burrell 1-1 1-2 3; Shaquille 0-0 0-0 0; Totals 34-80 22-39 95.

SACRAMENTO (83) — Williamson 9-17 6-15 24; O'Neal 8-12 3-4 8; Thompson 5-9 0-0 8; Abdul-Wahid 5-10 6-10 10; Johnson 9-18 4-12 22; Barnes 2-6 3-4 8; Stewart 2-7 1-2 5; Funderburke 4-7 1-2 3; Totals 32-67 20-38 83.

FOULS: out—For, Rebounds—Los Angeles 67 (Horry 14), Sacramento 57 (O'Neal 10). Assists—Los Angeles 17 (Van-Exel 5), Sacramento 12 (Johnson 4). Technicals—Horry A-17, 31.

Phoenix (21) — 21 23 19 20-33. San Antonio (21) — 21 21 20-33. PHOENIX (83) — McDyess 4-10 0-0 8 14; C. Robinson 4-11 0-0 10; Williams 0-8 0-0 0; Chapman 11-21 5-8 30; Todd 5-10 2-4 12; Manning 4-11 2-8 10; Johnson 1-1 1-1 2; McDyess 1-5 0-0 2; Nash 0-1 0-0 0; Bryant 0-0 0-0 0; Stoll 1-3 0-0 2; Totals 31-77 16-23 83.

FOULS: out—None. Rebounds—Phoenix 46 (McDyess 10), San Antonio 58 (Duncan 21). Assists—Phoenix 14 (Dyck 4), San Antonio 20 (A. Johnson 6). Technicals—Phoenix illegal defense 2. A-16, 30.

St. Louis (0) — 0 1 2-3. Calgary (0) — 0 0 0-0. First Period—1, Calgary, Morris 9 (Floury, Henson), 9-14 (Floury, Henson) 3 (Gibbs, Tlivi), 17-06. Second Period—2, Phoenix, Toth 22 (Gibbs, Tlivi), 4-58. 3, San Jose, Nolan 12 (Gibbs, Tlivi), 15-07 (pp), 4, Phoenix, Quinn 12 (Gibbs, Tlivi), 15-07 (pp), 5, Phoenix, Quinn 12 (Gibbs, Tlivi), 15-07 (pp), 6, Phoenix, Quinn 12 (Gibbs, Tlivi), 15-07 (pp), 7, Phoenix, Quinn 12 (Gibbs, Tlivi), 15-07 (pp), 8, Phoenix, Quinn 12 (Gibbs, Tlivi), 15-07 (pp), 9, Phoenix, Quinn 12 (Gibbs, Tlivi), 15-07 (pp), 10, Phoenix, Quinn 12 (Gibbs, Tlivi), 15-07 (pp), 11, Phoenix, Quinn 12 (Gibbs, Tlivi), 15-07 (pp), 12, Phoenix, Quinn 12 (Gibbs, Tlivi), 15-07 (pp), 13, Phoenix, Quinn 12 (Gibbs, Tlivi), 15-07 (pp), 14, Phoenix, Quinn 12 (Gibbs, Tlivi), 15-07 (pp), 15, Phoenix, Quinn 12 (Gibbs, Tlivi), 15-07 (pp), 16, Phoenix, Quinn 12 (Gibbs, Tlivi), 15-07 (pp), 17, Phoenix, Quinn 12 (Gibbs, Tlivi), 15-07 (pp), 18, Phoenix, Quinn 12 (Gibbs, Tlivi), 15-07 (pp), 19, Phoenix, Quinn 12 (Gibbs, Tlivi), 15-07 (pp), 20, Phoenix, Quinn 12 (Gibbs, Tlivi), 15-07 (pp), 21, Phoenix, Quinn 12 (Gibbs, Tlivi), 15-07 (pp), 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CRITICS' CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Georgian pianist Alexander Korsantiya, winner of the Eighth International Artur Schnabel Piano Competition, makes his long-awaited debut with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, playing Prokofiev's second piano concerto under the baton of another IPO debutant, Paavo Jarvi, who leads the orchestra in Nielsen's Fifth Symphony and the overture to Berlioz's *Le Corsaire*. Tonight at the Jerusalem International Convention Center, tomorrow and Saturday at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv and Thursday at the Haifa Auditorium (8:30 except Saturdays at 9). The second round of the Ninth International Artur Schnabel Piano Competition opens today with the best 20 pianists who emerged from the 45 competitors. Each pianist plays a 60- to 70-minute free-choice recital. Today (4) at the Tel Aviv Museum.

A Window to Musical Cultures at the Jerusalem Music Center continues today with the traditions of Yemenite Jews with a concert (9) preceded by lectures, workshops and master classes throughout the day.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

*****LIVE FLESH—In his wonderful new picture, the Spanish maverick Pedro Almodóvar recycles with real freshness his perennial hang-ups while adding to the mix a sadder, wiser strain. The tagi-slapstick nature of the story dwells on us, as always, in an Almodóvar movie, gradually, voluptuously, with humor and wit overlapping. Based very loosely on a Ruth Rendell novel, the film tells the story of five Madrid dwellers (including a wheelchair-bound basketball champ, a beautiful ex-junkie and the strangely innocent young son of a hooker), linked by a twisted web of desire and deceit. It's the director's most mature film to date, a wild, delightful and peculiarly disturbing work of Goyaesque pop art. (Spanish dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Children under 16 not admitted; ID will be checked.)



Georgian pianist Alexander Korsantiya makes his debut with the IPO.

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Kate Brody directs *A Shyness Maidel* by Barbara Lohov for her Hadassah Center Stage Theater. The play tells the story of two sisters, Rayzel and Lucia. Rayzel grows up in the safety of the USA, but Lucia goes through the horrors of the Holocaust in Europe. The play starts with their meeting after the war. Tonight and Thursday at the Mercat HaMagashim at 8 p.m. Tickets and info: (02) 561-9165.

TV

CHANNEL 1 (11)

8:30 News Flash
8:31 News Arabic
8:45 Good Morning Israel
10:00 Super Ben and Zep 1
10:05 X Men
10:10 Super Groove
10:20 Zappas
10:30 A New Evening
10:35 The News
10:40 News Arabic
10:45 News English

EDUCATIONAL TV (11)

8:00 Computer Science
8:30 Art Workshop
8:40 Science and Nature
10:00 Programs for the very young
11:00 English
12:00 French
12:30 Science and Technology
13:00 Geography
13:30 Art Workshop
15:00 Pretty Butterfly

CHANNEL 1 (11)

15:30 Super Ben and Zep 1
15:35 X Men
15:40 Super Groove
15:50 Zappas
16:00 A New Evening
16:05 The News
16:10 News Arabic
16:15 News English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Apropo
19:00 News

HEBREW PROGRAMS

19:30 News Flash
19:31 News Arabic
19:35 News English
19:40 Super Ben and Zep 1
19:45 X Men
19:50 Super Groove
20:00 Zappas
20:10 A New Evening
20:15 The News
20:20 News Arabic
20:25 News English

CHANNEL 2 (2)

8:45 Today's Programs
8:46 On the Edge of the Shell
8:47 Cartoons
8:48 Meeting Morning
8:49 Meetings
8:50 Pabo
8:51 The Little Circle
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8:59 The Little Circle
9:00 The Little Circle

CHANNEL 3

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pine (pt)
7:05 Guy Pine with Guy Pine (pt)
7:10 Guy Pine with Guy Pine (pt)
7:15 Guy Pine with Guy Pine (pt)
7:20 Guy Pine with Guy Pine (pt)
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7:50 Guy Pine with Guy Pine (pt)

JORDAN TV (9)

17:00 Holy Koran
17:10 Children's TV
17:20 The Koran
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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori LewisBattered
England
summon
Redknapp,
Matteo

LONDON (Reuters) — England manager Glenn Hoddle is to draft Liverpool players Jamie Redknapp and Dominic Matteo into the squad for a World Cup warm-up match against Switzerland tomorrow.

The two men were already over-age members of the under-21 squad and will play part of the junior match today before joining the senior squad and a likely place on the bench.

Hoddle has been forced to look for reinforcements after his original 26-man squad was reduced to 17 players — three of them goalkeepers — because of injuries.

He decided yesterday to fall back on players already traveling to Switzerland rather than call up reinforcements from outside.

"We've still got a talented squad but it is frustrating as a coach to have so many players pulled out," said Hoddle.

"In certain positions, fullback for instance, we've got a very limited choice."

Midfielder Redknapp, 24, is expected to be used as a sweeper in the under-21 match.

Defender Matteo, 23, is needed as cover for Sheffield Wednesday's Andy Hinchcliffe who is still not fully fit and cannot be considered a definite starter.

England have lost six Manchester United players — all the United contingent except striker Teddy Sheringham — as well as stalwarts such as Arsenal captain Tony Adams for the match in Bern's Wankdorf stadium.

Hoddle knocked down suggestions that the withdrawals might be linked more to club pressures, with United and Arsenal fighting for the Premiership.

"That is just not true," he said. "Seven of those players have been x-rayed and we've got scans. There is no way they could be training let alone playing on Wednesday."

Kentucky, Stanford round out Final Four

Wildcats edge Duke; Stanford victorious over Rhode Island

ST. PETERSBURG (AP) — Amid the celebration on the floor at Tropicana Field, Kentucky's Jeff Sheppard broke away from his teammates and searched for a familiar face from television.

He had never met Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski before Sunday, but he didn't want the moment to pass without shaking his hand.

"A lot of times you get caught up in celebrations — and that's fun — but that's what I've been taught to do," Sheppard said after Kentucky's 86-84 victory in the

pro-Wildcats crowd of 40,589 hope for a happy ending. Heshimu Evans and Scott Padgett made 3-pointers, while Wayne Turner had a three-point play and made a jumper in the lane to finish a four-point possession during the comeback.

"We were looking to do things one-on-one and stopped moving the ball like we had been doing to get the lead," Duke senior Roshown McLeod said.

Krzyzewski said the Blue Devils made mistakes, missed free throws and ran out of timeouts while trying to hold onto the lead, but they didn't blow the game. McLeod led Duke (32-4) with 19 points. Trajan Langdon had 18 and Chris Carrawell 12. Turner finished with 16 points and eight assists for Kentucky, while Evans had 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Duke went five minutes without a field goal while the Wildcats were catching up. Cameron Mills' 3-point shot gave Kentucky its first lead, 80-79, with 2:15 to go and Padgett's layup with 39.4 seconds left put his team ahead for good, 84-81.

"We knew we were never out of the game," said Padgett, who had 12 points. "We just stayed real positive and we realized, especially after the first half, that we had to turn it up defensively."

Krzyzewski didn't second-guess his players or himself. McLeod called the team's last time out with 5:21 to go in hopes the Blue Devils could stop Kentucky's momentum. Then Krzyzewski put the ball into the hands of Avery when Duke inbounded the ball with 4.5 seconds remaining.

Avery, one of three first-year players who started in the Blue Devils' victory over Syracuse in the regional semifinals, hustled upcourt and got off a 30-footer that bounced off the backboard at the buzzer.

"I thought what William did was great," Krzyzewski said. "He can hit stuff like that ... When it went up, I thought it might go in."

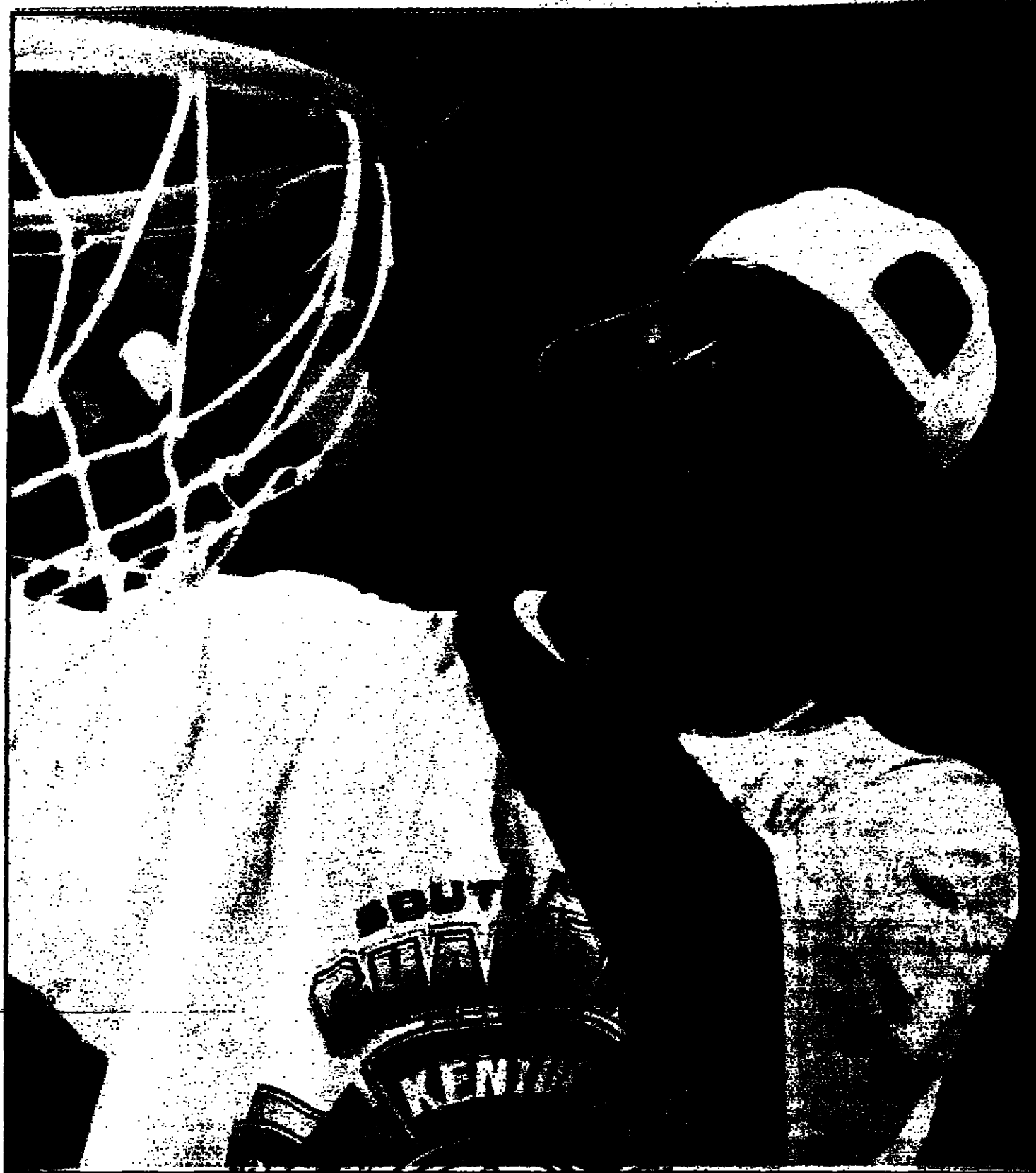
Stanford 79, Rhode Island 77. Arthur Lee began Stanford's stirring comeback by swishing a 3-point shot with a defender draped all over him, set up a teammate's basket with a nifty pass and lofted in a layup over outstretched arms.

He used his quick hands to cause the decisive turnover, gave an opposing player the choke sign and made the free throws that clinched the Cardinal's first Final Four appearance in five decades.

And he did it all in the final 52 seconds. A skinny, 6-foot guard on a tall, burly team, Lee carried Stanford to a 79-77 victory over Rhode Island on Sunday for the NCAA Midwest Regional title at St. Louis' Kiel Center. He scored 26 points, including 13 in the last 2:04 and eight in the final minute.

Down 71-65 after the Rams' Curtino Mobley made two free throws with 59.3 seconds left, the Cardinal handed the ball off to Lee.

"To be honest, it looked like we



NET GAINS — Wayne Turner cuts away the net after Kentucky beat Duke 86-84 to advance to the Final Four. The Wildcats will face Stanford, 79-77 winners over Rhode Island, in Saturday's semifinal. (Reuters)

were going to lose," Mark Madsen said. "And then Arthur Lee started making plays."

Lee, who often struggled this season in his attempt to succeed former All-American point guard Brevin Knight, knew Stanford was doomed unless he took command.

His biggest in a series of big plays came with Stanford losing 74-73 and 32 seconds remaining. Mobley caught an inbound pass but Lee stripped away the basketball. It went right to Madsen, who dunked, was fouled and hit

the free throw to put Stanford ahead.

It was a crushing outcome for Rhode Island, which led by 11 points with 8½ minutes to go and was still in control until the final minute.

But they folded as Lee made play after play. Nevertheless, they had a chance to rally from a 77-74 deficit with 5 seconds left when Lee fouled Tyson Wheeler during a 3-point attempt. Wheeler, however, missed three straight free throws — the first

two barely hitting the front rim — and Lee calmly followed with the clinching foul shot. Lee is 26-for-26 from the line in the tournament.

Jim Harrick, who won a national title at UCLA in 1995 but was dismissed in disgrace for recruiting violations the following year, took Rhode Island to the threshold of the Final Four in his first season there.

"We had a phenomenal year," he said. "It's a shame we had to lose in the manner that we lost."

NCAA Tournament	
First Round	March 19-20
Second Round	March 21-22
Third Round	March 23-24
Final Four	March 25-26
Championship	March 27
Final Five	March 28
Final Six	March 29
Final Eight	March 30
Final Nine	March 31
Final Ten	April 1
Final Eleven	April 2
Final Twelve	April 3
Final Thirteen	April 4
Final Fourteen	April 5
Final Fifteen	April 6
Final Sixteen	April 7
Final Seventeen	April 8
Final Eighteen	April 9
Final Nineteen	April 10
Final Twenty	April 11

IAAF won't punish Morocco for Israeli ban

MARRAKECH, Morocco (AP) — World track and field's governing body yesterday reiterated its criticism of Morocco for refusing to allow Israeli runners into the country to compete in the World Cross Country Championships.

However, the International Amateur Athletic Federation statement stopped short of threaten-

ing any punitive action against Morocco.

The Israeli team was stranded in Paris on Friday after Morocco refused to grant visas to the runners for the competition in Marrakech.

In a written statement, the IAAF expressed "deep regret at the absence of the Israeli delegation which cast a shadow over these championships."

The statement said the action violated the IAAF's principles that all athletes must be allowed to compete regardless of race, religion, ideology or nationality.

The IAAF also said the action was contrary to written guarantees provided by the Moroccan government at the time of Marrakech's bid for the championships.

England face improbable task

ST JOHN'S, Antigua (Reuters) — Alec Stewart led an England rearguard battle as they began the seemingly impossible task of saving the sixth and final Test against West Indies on Monday.

Needing 373 just to make West Indies bat again, England were 123 for two at tea with Stewart unbeaten on 78 and Nasser Hussain on 28 not out.

West Indies had earlier declared their first innings at 500 for seven after Carl Hooper made an unbeaten 108.

England captain Michael Atherton, whose future is once again under the spotlight, made only 13 as England began their second innings.

Once again it was fast bowler Curtly Ambrose who spoiled Atherton's 30th birthday as he trapped him lbw, the sixth time the giant fast bowler has dismissed the England captain in 11 innings in this series.

It was Atherton's 15th score below 20 in his last 23 Test innings. There are sure to be calls for him to be replaced as captain when the side returns to England but David Graveney, chairman of the selectors, has already said the captaincy will not be discussed immediately.

Ambrose plunged England even deeper into trouble when he then had Mark Butcher caught behind for his second duck of the match. Butcher was Ambrose's 30th victim of the series.

Stewart survived a confident appeal for a catch behind off fast bowler Frankly Rose but batted confidently to reach his fourth half-century of the series.

West Indies captain Brian Lara had earlier delayed the declaration long enough for Hooper to complete his ninth Test century after

two Test centuries in 1997.

Hooper, at his most elegant, faced 142 balls and hit 16 fours in a chanceless exhibition of classic stroke-play as he hit an unbeaten 108, the second century of the West Indies innings following the 104 by opener Clayton Lambert.

South Africa vs. Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka provided South Africa with a few moments of alarm before the home side wrapped up a 70-run victory in the first Test yesterday.

Set 377 to win, the third highest fourth innings score in Test history, Sri Lanka were bowled out for 306 shortly before tea on the fifth day.

Until the arrival of the second new ball they were still in the hunt to pull off a remarkable victory at 234 for five.

But two wickets in two deliveries with the new ball from Allan Donald put the skids under Sri Lanka. Number nine Pramodya Wickremasinghe struck eight fours and one six in a 45-ball half century before he was last man out.

Resuming on 120 for three Sri Lanka made South Africa wait 70 minutes for the breakthrough as Marvan Atapattu and Arjuna

Ranatunga took their overnight partnership to 73.

Their resistance was finally ended when Atapattu — who had made 60 in the first innings — drilled a return catch to left arm wrist spinner Paul Adams. He made 71.

Pakistan vs. Zimbabwe. Inspired by a determined career-best 192 from Mohammad Waseem, Pakistan dominated a sweltering hot third day against Zimbabwe in the second Test at Harare Sports Club yesterday.

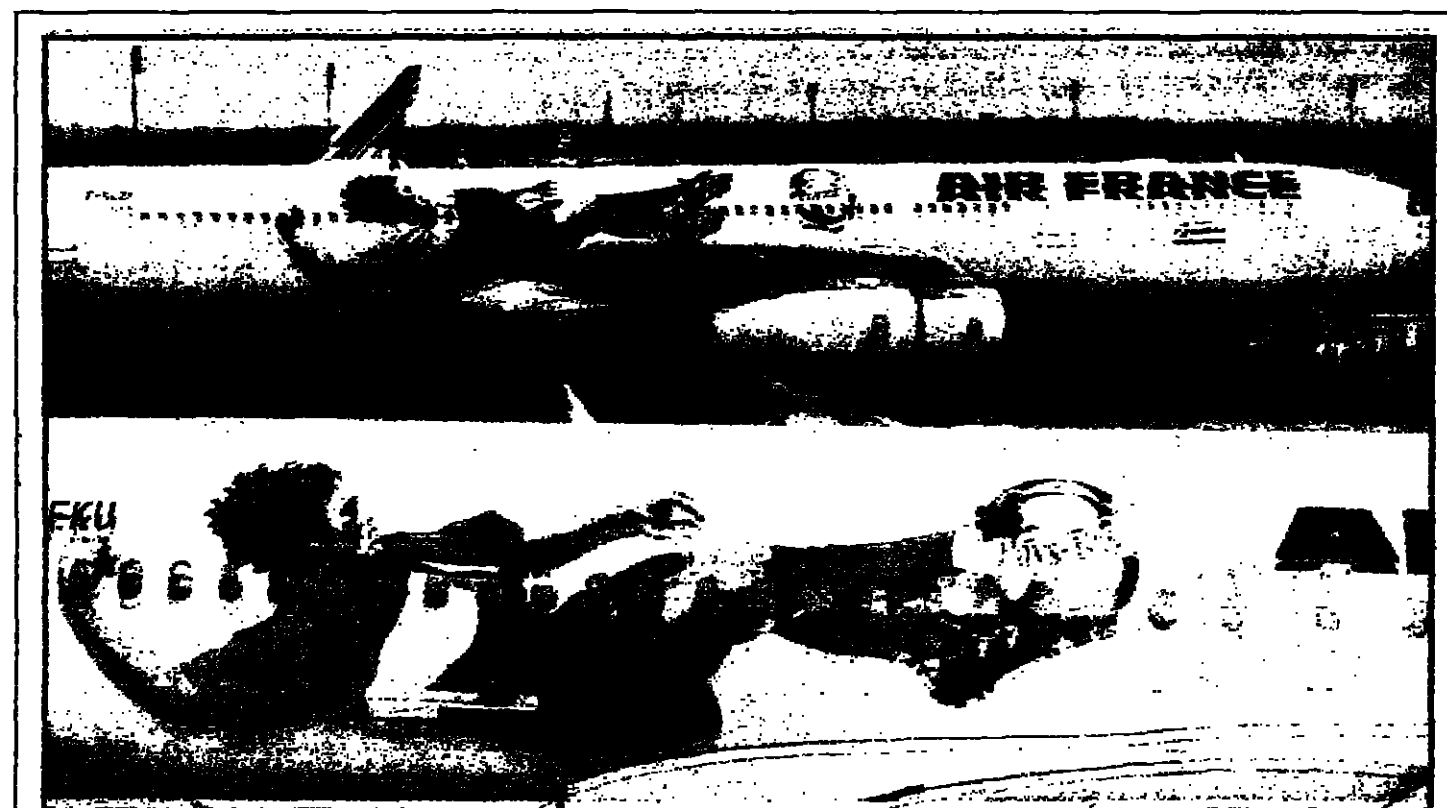
By close of play, Pakistan were just five runs ahead with seven second innings wickets standing.

Batting for a total of nine hours and 20 minutes on an easing pitch, Waseem ensured that the ninth and 10th wickets added a further 167 runs as Pakistan recovered from their overnight score of 190 for eight.

W. Australia win Shield title. Western Australia put two years of disappointment behind them by winning the Sheffield Shield yesterday with a seven-wicket thrashing of Tasmania.

Runners-up in the past two seasons, Western Australia won with a day to spare despite being delayed by an outstanding century from Tasmania number three Michael Di Venuto.

Needing to score only 63 in their second innings, Western Australia reached their target just before close of play on the fourth day at the WACA Ground when captain Tom Moody scored the winning single. The home side needed only a draw in the five-day final to win the Shield.



French connection

France's national carrier Air France presents the first two planes bearing the 1998 World Cup colors at Roissy Airport yesterday. France will have 16 painted airliners, each with two of the stripes of the competing countries.

(Reuters)

UN's Butler
praises Iraqi
cooperation

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's spokesman yesterday praised Iraq's cooperation with UN inspectors.

Butler said Iraq's cooperation was "a significant step forward" in the process of verifying the country's disarmament.

He said the UN team was "impressed by the speed and efficiency" of the Iraqi response.

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